

THE TIMES
 1785-1985
Tomorrow

Times table
A do-it-yourself guide to the Budget by Sarah Hogg

Prints and princesses
Suzy Menkes looks at two faces of fashion on show at the London collections

Football crazies
David Miller on the Government's role in dealing with football hooligans

Soul searching
Roger Scruton seeks the limits of the human soul

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio weekly competition prize of £20,000 was won on Saturday by Mr John W Quinn of Widdowson, Cumbria. The daily prize of £2,000 was shared by Mr Keith Lewin of Watford, Herts, and Mr Michael S Quartermass of Windsor, Berks.

Portfolio list, page 16; rules and how to play, Information Service, back page.

Bonn hails Honecker approach

The Bonn government is studying signs that East Berlin is ready for warmer relations with West Germany after the summit meeting in Moscow last week. Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader

British holiday bookings soar

Bookings for holidays in Britain are soaring, with travel operators and hotels reporting increases of up to 25 per cent, while demand for foreign package tours is down by nearly a third.

Summit hopes

Mr Brian Mulroney, the Canadian Prime Minister, and President Reagan began their summit determined to rebuild good relationships between the two countries.

Pay warning

A warning on pay and productivity and the rise in number of workers going on strike has been issued by the Confederation of British Industry.

Hijacker killed

A man with a grenade who hijacked a Saudi Boeing 737 with 97 people aboard was shot dead at Dhahran airport in Saudi Arabia. No one else was hurt.

Indian reforms

India's first budget under Mr Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister offers a package of industrial growth measures and a series of reforms affecting the corporate sector.

Left gains

First predictions of yesterday's run-off elections in France's cantonal polls indicate left-wing groups have gained, but are still far behind the right.

Sizewell lessons

The Sizewell inquiry produced masses of evidence and led to the policies on the disposal of radioactive waste and nuclear plant decommissioning being reconsidered.

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Letters: On new GCSE exam, from Mr J. P. Toomey, and Mr A. R. Munday; Namibia, from Mr N. R. Winterton, MP, and Mr M. Brown, MP
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Iraq tells airlines 'stay away' as Gulf war flares

By Our Foreign Staff

Iraqi and Iranian troops were battling yesterday for control of a strategic road in southern Iraq and at least three ships were attacked in the Gulf, as Iraq warned international airlines to stay out of Iranian airspace.

Iraq claimed last night that its forces had killed 15,000 Iranians in the past 36 hours. A military communiqué issued in Baghdad said Iraqi planes had flown 264 sorties and 435 helicopter gunship combat missions in support of ground troops.

Iran said it had killed or wounded over 7,000 Iraqis since its offensive began a week ago. The military command in Tehran said Iraqi forces had suffered 2,500 casualties during the overnight fighting.

British Airways last night suspended flights to Baghdad and Tehran after Iraq declared Iranian airspace a prohibited zone from tomorrow. Several other airlines were considering similar action.

Gulf shipping sources said a Liberian tanker, the Caribbean Breeze, was hit in an apparent Iranian attack off Qatar and 10 crewmen were hurt, three seriously. The ship, chartered to Kuwait's national oil company and carrying 1.8 million barrels of Kuwaiti crude, was set ablaze.

The vessel's British captain, identified only as D. Mackafery, was reported to be in serious condition at a Qatar hospital, where he was moved by helicopter along with the nine other injured crewmen. Mr Mackafery, aged 50, suffered

"serious injuries" in his arm and hand and had undergone surgery, hospital officials said. Another tanker, said to be the Agartia, was hit and set ablaze shortly after leaving the Iranian oil terminal at Kharg Island with a load of crude, and an oilfield supply vessel was hit near the Iranian terminal.

There were unconfirmed reports that a fourth vessel - another tanker - had been hit



further south in what looked like another Iranian attack.

Iraq claimed its aircraft had attacked several Iranian towns and launched surface-to-surface missiles at Dezful and Andimeshk.

Iranian Television reported that 15 people had been killed and 125 injured in the missile attack. In Bakhtaran, in the centre of Iran, five people were killed and 15 wounded in an Iraqi air raid, the television said.

Heavy fighting was reported in the Al Hawizah marshes east of the Tigris river as the Iranians, who launched a big

attack there six days ago, battled to ford it and seize the vital highway from Baghdad to the southern port of Basra.

Informal sources in Tehran said Iranian troops had taken six miles of the road, but there was no official confirmation of the report. A Baghdad newspaper quoted an Iraqi commander as saying the Iraqis crossed the river yesterday but been driven back.

Cutting the road would leave Basra, Iraq's second city with a population of one million, linked to the north by only one road from the west.

A resident told Reuters by telephone he had visited the town of Qurnah, 43 miles north of the port. He quoted the governor Mr Mahdi Saleh Shihab as saying: "Some Iraqis managed to infiltrate into the town, but they were completely wiped out by the army and members of the paramilitary Popular Army."

The governor was quoted as saying the Iraqis then started shelling the town and suburbs. As foreigners scrambled to leave Tehran following Iraqi attacks on the city - there was one reported foiled attempt last night - informed sources said Austrian Airlines had suspended its regular flights.

They said an extra Austrian Airlines flight yesterday, aimed at coping with the rush of foreigners fleeing over Turkish territory for an hour before an Iranian fighter appeared to escort it to Mehrabad airport.

Leading article, page 13
Photographs, back page

'Appraisal by law' threat to teachers

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Teachers were told yesterday by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, that if they went back to the negotiating table quickly they might get extra money this year for salary structure reform.

That glimmer of hope was, however, extinguished immediately by Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, who said that Sir Keith's performance yesterday on *Weekend World*, the independent television programme, would merely depress teachers further.

Sir Keith, questioned by Mr Brian Waldron, said that if teachers did not accept appraisal, an element in restructuring proposals, he would have to consider legislation.

He also repeated that incompetent teachers should be dismissed. Neither sentiment endears him to teachers' unions. The NUT, the biggest teachers' union, last year torpedoed talks on salary structure reform before negotiations with the local authority employers had begun.

Under persistent questioning yesterday, Sir Keith made it clear that he was keen to get salary structure reform for

teachers to improve promotion prospects, as well as appraisal, but he could not say how much extra money would be available. Because of the cost, it would be phased in over several years, he emphasized.

"You know very well that the Government is desperately anxious to keep down public spending," he told Mr Waldron. Estimates by the local authority employers that it would add 7 per cent to the teachers' salary bill if the structure was reformed was "utterly unrealistic", he added.

It is understood, however, that in secret talks with the employers last November Sir Keith said that the Government might accept "maybe 5 per cent, possibly 6 per cent", as the cost of salary restructuring.

However, it is also understood that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was horrified when he heard that a 7 per cent rise in the salary bill was being mooted in return for restructuring.

Yesterday Sir Keith was fairly positive about the benefits of salary reform, though he was scathing about teachers' leaders, who, he said, had distorted facts and raised false expectations.

Duffy fears AUEW will get left-wing leader

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Mr Terry Duffy, right-wing president of Britain's second biggest union, has given a warning that a left-winger could take over his post when he retires next year unless a clash in the moderate camp can be avoided.

Mr Duffy, leader of the million-strong Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, is angry that Mr Gerry Russell, an executive member for Merseyside, intends to run against the official moderate candidate, Mr Bill Jordan, of the West Midlands.

Mr Duffy argues that Mr Russell's entry into the fray will dissipate the voting and organizational power of the right and

could let in the communist-backed Mr John Tocher, a Manchester official.

Moderates on the executive estimate there could be five candidates broadly identified with the centre and right. "Mr Duffy told *The Times*: "These other candidates mean that the moderates' campaign will be fragmented and there is now a real danger that the right could lose the presidency."

Some observers believe, however, that Mr Duffy thinks it will be possible to dissuade Mr Russell from running. Even if he does run and gets to the second round of voting, it is predicted moderates would rally round and ensure his victory.

Sermon by US prelate condemned

From Richard Ford, Belfast

A controversial St. Patrick's Day sermon by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York reflected "a dreary view" of Ireland's problems.

Mr Nicholas Scott, Under Secretary of State at the Northern Ireland Office, said last night. His attack on Archbishop John O'Connor came amidst Unionist anger at the sermon, delivered in New York before the prelate greeted Mr Peter King, an outspoken supporter of the Provisional IRA, as grand marshal of the annual parade.

In his sermon, the Archbishop said that he would never support violence, but that included people who perpetrated an injustice and denied a people their birthright. He would not criticize those people in Ireland striving for justice.

Mr Scott also implicitly criticized Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich's recent call for British troops to be withdrawn from the north and replaced by a United Nations force.

The idea that if British troops were withdrawn, there was going to be an end to violence did not tie in with the facts.

The sermon in New York has added to anger within Northern Ireland's Protestant community over remarks by the Cardinal on the inevitability of Irish unity, and indicate the effort British diplomats now have to put into countering Republican propaganda in the United States.

There was spontaneous applause from worshippers yesterday when leaders of the four main churches in Ireland prayed together in Down Cathedral the traditional burial place of Ireland's patron saint. The acrimony that marked a press conference four days ago when Dr Howard Cromie, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, attacked Cardinal O'Fiaich for his remarks on Irish unity, was forgotten as the leaders laid a wreath on the grave.



Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, at his home in Leicestershire at the weekend.

Budget seeks to reassure markets

Lawson aiming for caution on taxes

By Sarah Hogg, David Smith, and Julian Haviland

A "cautious" Budget, with only limited income tax reductions and marginal changes in the tax system, will be presented by Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, tomorrow in his attempt to reassure the financial markets without provoking revolt on the Tory backbenches.

And Mr Lawson, in what is his second spring Budget has also to reassure his party and Mrs Margaret Thatcher of his competence as Chancellor.

Colleagues in the government have noticed that the Prime Minister has recently shown signs of unhappiness with the Chancellor's performance. The Budget will feature:

A "jobs package" including an extension of youth training and the Community Programme, though final details will be revealed later.

A "restatement" of the Government's financial and tax policies. The Chancellor will demonstrate his intention to slow monetary growth, and announce public borrowing targets on or below £7 billion for 1985-86. This will compare with an outcome of up to £10 billion for 1984-85. Mr Lawson will be obliged to tell the Commons the final cost of the cost of the last year, though he will be less precise about next year's fall-out from the strike.

A tight squeeze on public spending, with warnings of emergency action to come, and some indication of the Treasury's response to the Government's social security reviews.

Upbeat forecasts for the British economy, showing a fifth year of output recovery. The Treasury is expecting growth of close on 3½ per cent, little change from 1983, despite the rise in interest rates. Its

Some changes in taxation of the financial sector of the economy, notably pension funds, but also by altering the system for taxing building societies. However, changes on pensions are limited by the Chancellor's pledge against retrospective in the Commons before Christmas. A levy on pension fund income, to raise around £500m, is likely.

Some further encouragement to share purchase by the public, especially in the firms they work for.

Reforms of capital taxes, concentrated on capital gains tax.

Some changes in national insurance, designed to encourage employers to take on more people this year.

Most of the Chancellor's scope for tax cuts will be used up by the changes in income tax allowances, partly financed by the public.

Weather, back page

Although African famine, Namibia, refugee problems and relations with South Africa are likely to figure prominently in discussions, Tanzania's own economic troubles might be the end be the most important talking point when he meets Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, to discuss economic aid.

Britain remains Tanzania's biggest trading partner, exporting more than £60 million worth of goods to Dar es Salaam last year and importing £43 million worth in return. Britain also has £32 million of investments in Tanzania.

His first visit to 10 Downing Street will be today. Then will come luncheon at the Mansion

House and a Foreign Office dinner tonight hosted by Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State with responsibility for African affairs.

The rift, however, is now long healed and he is on first name terms with Mrs Margaret Thatcher and even with the Queen - at least, the latter calls him "Julius".

It is his role as elder statesman which is likely to be most prominent during the next three days, when he will meet the Prime Minister twice and lunch with the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

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Russian threat to West unity

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The new Soviet leadership will seek to divide Western Europe, including Britain, from the United States over key arms issues while the new Geneva arms talks are in their early stages, diplomats said here yesterday.

Sources said that under Mr Mikhail Gorbachev the Kremlin would seek to exploit West European doubts about the American Star Wars project for space based defence, and to encourage European opposition to continuing cruise missile deployments.

Yesterday *Pravda* urged Belgians to resist cruise deployments following the announcement by Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, that Belgium would honour its missile commitments as a Nato member. *Pravda* claimed this

was opposed by 80 per cent of the population, and said rallies, demonstrations and hunger strikes were taking place.

Mr Viktor Karpov, the chief Soviet negotiator at Geneva, expressed concern over the American attitude to the talks at the weekend. Appearing on Soviet television news, Mr Karpov said although the talks had only just opened, and the Russian side was trying to behave "constructively", the American commitment to space weapons research suggested Washington wanted to alter the framework agreement, under which space weapons, strategic missiles and Euro-missiles are deemed to be "inter-related".

Mr Karpov said he had the impression the Americans wanted to read him lectures on the usefulness of the strategic defence initiative (SDI), or Star Wars project, rather than make space more peaceful.

Although Mr Thatcher strongly supported Mr Reagan and Star Wars during her talks with Mr Gorbachev at President Chernenko's funeral last week, Soviet officials have noted that Britain has serious doubts about the feasibility of the SDI.

Soviet officials here were struck by the fact that while Mr Thatcher had repeatedly assured Mr Gorbachev of President Reagan's good intentions over Star Wars, Sir Geoffrey had declared that complex questions over the cost and feasibility of SDI could not be shrugged off.

Diplomats noted that Mrs Thatcher had expressed doubts about Star Wars before going to Washington recently, but had then swung behind Mr Reagan again. In Moscow Mrs Thatcher said Mr Reagan had "explicitly confirmed to her that although space weapons research was

Continued on back page, col 2

Terror group seize reporter

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Islamic Jihad, the mysterious Muslim organization which claimed responsibility for the bombing of American embassies in both west and east Beirut, last night said that two Britons abducted in the Lebanese capital last week and an American journalist kidnapped on Saturday, were now its prisoners.

In a chilling statement read to a news agency in Beirut by a man speaking Arabic with a Lebanese accent, Islamic Jihad said that the kidnapping of Mr Terry Anderson, the bureau chief of the Associated Press News Agency, and of Mr Brian Levick and Mr Geoffrey Nash, both British, "comes within the framework of our continuing operations against America and its agents".

All three, the caller said, had been moved from Beirut, adding a warning that "Islamic Beirut" was full of Western "spies" who would be "purged".

In spite of the British Ambassador's advice to British citizens to leave Beirut, only one Briton is believed to have accepted his recommendation. But when Mr Anderson was snatched off the street by four armed men on Saturday, it started a miniature journalistic exodus.

The American television networks immediately ordered their crews to leave Lebanon. Several American correspondents fled to east Beirut. At least one British news agency reporter brought forward his holiday.

If anyone had wanted to close down press coverage of the Lebanese conflict - both Israel's war against the guerrillas in the south and Syria's military threats against the Lebanese Christians - they



Mr Anderson: dragged into car.

could not have devised a more effective method.

A few hours before the gunmen picked Mr Anderson up next to the pretty little mosque in Ein Mreisse he had joked about the dangers of being kidnapped and confided privately to me that four young men in a Mercedes had twice tried to corner his car. He did

Continued on back page, col 1

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Doyen of African nationalism makes his final visit

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The doyen of African nationalism, President Julius Nyerere, arrived in Britain yesterday, ready to be lionized during what will almost certainly be his last official visit here as President of Tanzania.

Unless he changes his mind, he will step down later this year at the age of 62 after 23 years as leader, first of Tanganyika and since 1964 of the Tanzanian republic.

This will be his first official visit to Britain since his state visit of 1975. But his present position as Chairman of the Organization of African Unity at a time when the continent is afflicted by drought and its attendant troubles and by even more than its usual share of



President Nyerere at Heathrow yesterday with Mr. Timothy Raison, Minister of Overseas Development.

bloodshed and political tremors, makes this a timely return.

So far that matter does the approaching Commonwealth conference in the Bahamas in

"down" being in 1965 when President Nyerere broke off diplomatic relations over the Wilson Government reluctance to send in troops against Mr Ian Smith's Government in Rhodesia after its unilateral declaration of independence.

The rift, however, is now long healed and he is on first name terms with Mrs Margaret Thatcher and even with the Queen - at least, the latter calls him "Julius".

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CBI issues pay and productivity warning on Budget eve

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

British wages are rising too fast, productivity is increasing too slowly and growing numbers of workers are going on strike for higher pay, the Confederation of British Industry reported today in an eve of Budget employment report.

Detailing new and "worrying" evidence of the nation's declining labour cost-competitiveness, the confederation said that Britain had lost ground against almost all the other key industrialized nations, particularly the rest of Europe and Japan.

Relying on a depreciating currency "provides no satisfactory or longer-term answer to a failure to match and then improve on the cost performance of other countries."

The report said that the increase in earnings in manufacturing industry last year averaged 8.5 per cent compared with 6.5 per cent in France, 4 per cent in Japan and the United States and 3.5 per cent for West Germany. In recent months the trend had been flat largely as a result of companies' inability to increase prices and low profits.

Manufacturing productivity on the last quarter of 1984 rose by only 2.5 per cent, half the figure of a year earlier. That compared with a 10 per cent increase in Japan.

"Our cost are rising as fast as those of the Japanese are falling," it added.

"What happens on the pay

24% rise in women working for themselves

By Barrie Clement
Labour Reporter

One in 10 of those in work is self-employed, according to the Manpower Services Commission's latest quarterly report published today.

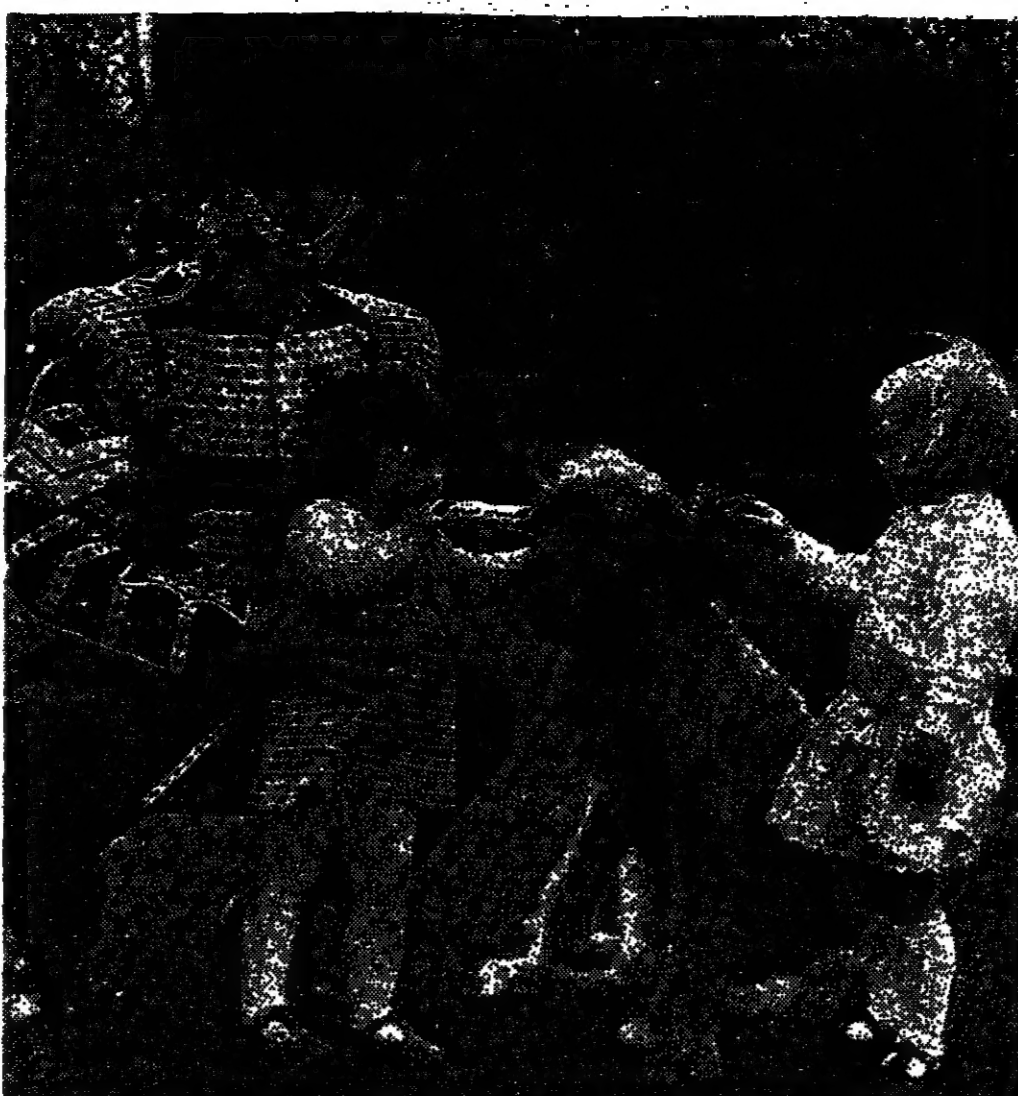
The figures represent the highest proportion since 1921 and will be seen as a boost to the Government policy of encouraging small business as a means of breaking out of the economic recession.

There has been a particularly rapid rise in recent years which brought the total of those "going it alone" last year to 2.5 million.

The increase has been especially marked among women. In 1981 there were 1.72 million self-employed men, representing about 15 per cent of all men in employment but only 446,000 self-employed women, less than 5 per cent of the total.

Two years later the number of men working for themselves had risen by 2 per cent compared with a 24 per cent increase among women taking self-employment to 551,000 or almost 6 per cent of employed women.

The commission believes that the disproportionate increase is partly because women are employed in areas where the growth of self-employment has been greatest such as in professional education and health services, clerical and related occupations and catering, cleaning and hairdressing.



Conchobar, new Irish Wolfhound mascot of the Irish Guards, with his handler Corporal David Rutherford and (right) daughter Lisa, aged two and her friend Kay, also aged two, after being presented with shamrock by the Colonel, the Grand Duke of Luxembourg at Pirbright, Surrey.

Government computers face union risk

The Government's computer network should be decentralized to prevent unions gaining a stranglehold on vital Whitehall operations, according to a confidential report (our Labour Reporter writes).

The study, part of an investigation into the nine-month strike by staff at the social security centre in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, says that the concentration of power in large computer installations is a clear source of risk.

It adds that future computer planning should aim to reduce the dangers of dispersing work and providing back-up facilities.

The report also discloses that the social security stoppage by 400 staff cost £200 million a figure that was "far beyond anything that could have been foreseen at the outset". The efficiency measures which started the strike were expected to save £50,000.

Although there is widespread criticism of the cost of the industrial action the report says that it was not considered a realistic option to give in to the union's demands. The report says that the cost element was not an overriding factor and the failure of the union to spread the strike to an impossibly damaging extent meant that management can "sit out an affair of this kind".

The Poet Laureate in praise of salmon

By Robin Young

After poems dedicated to Prince Henry and Prince William, the Poet Laureate has published his third work since his appointment last year. This time it is for a fish.

An autographed fair copy of Mr Ted Hughes' nine-verse poem, *The Best Worker in Europe*, is to be auctioned in aid of the Atlantic Salmon Trust at a Christie's sale in Scotland on Friday. It is expected to raise at least £1,000.

Mr Hughes, a passionate conservationist, had been in correspondence with Rear-Admiral John MacKenzie, the Trust's director, when it was realized that the letters were coming from the Poet Laureate, and an urgent request for some verse followed. Mr Hughes' reply was not only to supply a unique manuscript but also to offer to sign a limited edition of 150 copies for the trust.

The poem is included in a sale, to be held at Hopetoun House near Edinburgh, which also offers fishing and shooting rights, two safari holidays, a Victorian silver snuffbox given by the Prince of Wales, and a carriage clock given by the Queen Mother.

The first three verses of Mr Hughes' new work have been released by Christie's. The best worker in Europe is only six inch long.

You thought he'd be a bigger chap? Wait till you hear my song, my dears. Wait till you hear my song. No Union cries his Yes or Nay. He works for all both night and day. With neither subsidy nor pay.

He comes out of a heap of stones Like some old-fashioned Elf. And all he asks is plain water. Such as you drink yourself, my dears.

Such as you drink yourself. Two years toiling secretly. He makes his gear, without a sigh. To rest his head or close his eye. And then one day he is off to sea.

And only six inch long. Into the Black Hole under the Ocean. Rows himself along, my dears. He rows himself along. To Hell with Russian, Viking, Hun!

This great-hearted simpleton Takes the whole Atlantic on. The remaining six verses recount the salmon's migration and return to its native river. Christie's hope the auction will raise at total of £20,000 for the trust.

Lawson aiming for caution on taxation

Continued from page 1

the extensions to spending taxes. His net tax cuts will amount to between £1 billion and £1.5 billion - the figure announced in last November's autumn statement. Since then North Sea revenues have risen because of the falls in the pound, but debt interest has also risen because of higher interest rates.

The Chancellor's over-riding aim will be to reassure the financial markets, in order to pave the way for a fall in interest rates. He will also use his Budget speech to explain the Government's present attitude to exchange rate policy. But his income tax cuts, changes in national insurance and employment programme will all be packaged together to justify the description he himself gave of a "Budget for jobs".

The Chancellor has clearly signalled that radical tax reform will be postponed, with no fundamental changes in this Budget. This decision is being defended on the grounds that the Inland Revenue will not have the computer capacity for change until 1988.

Although he was from the first and remains among Mrs Thatcher's firmest admirers, Mr Lawson is said to be less amenable than his predecessor to detailed direction from 10 Downing Street.

But Mrs Thatcher started exhibiting doubts in private conversation with her immediate circle only after the sudden plunge of sterling against the dollar in January, and the emergency 5½ per cent increase in interest rates.

She was then heard to question the Chancellor's alertness to the moods of the international markets and the wisdom of some of his public statements.

Some of the Chancellor's critics among Conservative MPs claim the Prime Minister's support for their view that he was ill advised to tell Parliament, in his November statement, that he expected to have room for £1,500 million in tax cuts - a prediction which they see as having contributed to the pound's decline to a level where Mrs Thatcher now says it is undervalued.

Others in the party believe they also detect a lack of sympathy on the Prime Minister's part for some of Mr Lawson's tax-reforming instincts. She is thought to be wary of his wish to reduce or remove, in the name of simplicity, some concessions on which many Conservative voters have come to rely, in the tax treatment of mortgage and pension payments.

Gorbachov is asked to let husband go

By Richard Dowden

In Mr Gorbachov's in-tray, amid arms talks papers and plans for economic reform, lies the plea of an English woman to let her Russian husband join her and their daughter, aged two, in Britain.

The Soviet leader's decision will be a test of his humanity as well as Britain's relationship with the Soviet Union.

Mrs Jill Blonsky, aged 32 and her daughter, Zhenya, 2 came to Britain from Moscow on November 3 last year, believing that her husband, Sasha, would be allowed to join her within days.

A month later she heard that his application had been rejected. She was in hospital at the time recovering from an operation. She discharged herself and went on crutches to the Soviet Union Embassy to deliver a letter of appeal.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary and Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, raised the case with Mr Gorbachov who was at the time in London but the Russians have so far not changed their minds.

Mrs Blonsky said: "I will go on hunger strike outside the Soviet Embassy from April 1 if they do not release him. That is not a threat but it is all I can do now to get my husband." She is suffering from ulcers and general poor health.

The reason the Russians gave for refusing him permission to leave was national security. Mr Blonsky, now aged 29, did his national service between 1975 and 1977. When he left he signed a document committing him to secrecy for five years.

But Mrs Blonsky said: "Even if he did know something he would never divulge it, even to me. He is a very

patriotic Russian. He was offered a job in India a few years ago and they never said anything about national security then."

She met her husband at the Moscow Olympics in 1980 and they were married two years later at the Palace of Weddings in Moscow. Since then ill luck and Soviet bureaucracy have kept the couple apart.

They were unable to get a permit to allow them to live together in Moscow and at one stage he was given seven days notice to leave by the police.

Under the stress and uncertainty she suffered a miscarriage and had to spend a month in hospital. Her mother-in-law looked after their daughter and her husband paid frequent visits from his home in Rezinia in Moldavia as he was unable to stay with her in Moscow or get a job there.

Union move to woo key staff

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Key groups of government communications workers may be drawn into a new union being created in the Civil Service.

Leaders of the two main unions, which have already agreed to a link-up, have made approaches to the much smaller but critical-placed Civil Service Union to join the merger.

If successful, those moves would bring together clerical and administrative officers in the Civil Service with CSU radio and wireless grades responsible for maintaining Home Office and Ministry of Defence internal communications systems.

The result would be a

300,000-strong union representing all grades from messengers to higher executives, able to bring work in Whitehall and government communications to a stand still in pursuit of pay claims.

CSU leaders are cautiously welcoming the initiative, which came last week from Mr Alastair Graham, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, and Mr Gerry Gilman, general secretary of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, to join the proposed Union of Civil and Public Servants.

The CSU executive has overwhelmingly approved a general motion favouring a merger to put to a policy-making conference in Blackpool starting on April 29.

Mr John Sheldon, general secretary of the Civil Service Union, told *The Times* last night: "We recognize the inevitability of mergers in the Civil Service. We see a need to strengthen trade unionism, to stop the attacks by this or any other government on jobs and conditions of service."

The CSU's membership has fallen from a peak of 47,000 in 1979 to 35,000 this year, chiefly as the result of privatization of government office cleaning.

But the union was also badly hit by the forced deunionization of government headquarters at Cheltenham, and its seven outstations just over a year ago. However, the CSU still retains about 2,000 members in key functions.

Tough new line urged on torture

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Tougher measures to combat torture and a right of access to information held by public bodies will be debated by ministers from 21 countries at the first top-level conference on human rights in Vienna tomorrow.

The conference, to be attended by ministers from member states of the Council of Europe, is going ahead in spite of a lukewarm response to the idea from countries including the United Kingdom, Germany and The Netherlands.

The United Kingdom Government in particular has a bad record in terms of cases lodged at the European Commission of Human Rights and has had to implement legislation on a number of fronts after adverse rulings from the European Court.

About 25 per cent of the 320 cases ruled admissible by the Commission since it was set up in 1955 have been British applications. Last year there were 800 complaints from British citizens.

There have also been about a dozen European Court rulings against the United Kingdom Government, leading to legislative reforms on telephone tapping, corporal punishment, the law of contempt and freedom of expression, prisoners' and mental patients' rights.

Top of the agenda at the two-day conference will be how to strengthen the part played by the Council of Europe in promoting human rights. The Austrians will call for more work on a European convention on torture, which would have power to send investigative teams into countries to look into allegations, in the way now done by the United Nations.

It will also propose special guarantees of individual rights in their dealings with governments, and a general right of access to information when dealing with administrative bodies as well as legal remedies when refused such access.

Other key topics include improving the human rights machinery of the European Court and European Commission so that they can better tackle the 3,000 applications a year from 17 member states. Four states, Greece, Malta, Turkey and Cyprus, still do not allow petitions by individuals.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$22; Belgium 125; Canada 125; Denmark 125; France 125; Germany 125; Greece 125; Holland 125; Ireland 125; Italy 125; Japan 125; New Zealand 125; Norway 125; Portugal 125; Spain 125; Sweden 125; Switzerland 125; Taiwan 125; Thailand 125; USA 125; Yugoslavia 125.

Moderates defiant over pit levy ballot

By Our Labour Reporter

Leaders of the moderate Nottinghamshire miners look set today to defy their national leadership and refuse to hold a ballot on the 50p levy for dismissed strikers.

All areas of the National Union of Mineworkers have been instructed to hold the poll over three days starting on Wednesday. But the Nottinghamshire executive, made up almost exclusively of pitmen who opposed the year-long strike, have received legal advice that they can legitimately ignore the directive.

The leadership of the NUM ordered the national ballot to support 760 men who were dismissed during the dispute for violence, damage, theft of National Coal Board property and other offences.

The NCB has said that the men can appeal to local management for reinstatement, but that there is no question of a general amnesty. The board has also indicated that about a third of those dismissed had committed what it regarded as "serious" offences for which they would not be forgiven.

The refusal to hold the poll will be seen as yet another snub

to the leadership from Nottinghamshire, south Derbyshire and Leicestershire, is pressing Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the union, to end the ban and negotiate immediately with management on the outstanding 5.2 per cent pay offer.

The next scheduled meeting of the national executive is on March 28, but it could be brought forward to Thursday.

Meanwhile, the NCB's attitude to intimidation from former strikers to those who worked from the beginning of the dispute noticeably hardened at the weekend.

The board is now making it clear that local management has instructions to deal "very firmly" with such behaviour and to take disciplinary action "up to and including dismissal".

After a number of attacks on miners' vehicles in north Staffs, Mr Geoff Cairns, a member of the NUM Midlands area executive, has asked the NCB to increase security. Hundreds of pounds of damage has been caused to miners' cars.

Coalfields competition, page 17

Government is accused by local councils

The Government seems to be moving towards "a system of local government in which power is determined by wealth rather than by the ballot box".

For the Government to suggest local election decisions are in some way inferior "is to take a dangerous step away from universal adult suffrage", the report by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities adds.

The result would be a

Property Correspondent

and Co and Mr David Holliday, chairman of Laing Homes. The immediate response has been encouraging. Mrs Nancy Robertson, director of the advisory group, said: "We shall not let the matter drop. It is early days yet to see things done, but builders are looking into ways of improving the situation."

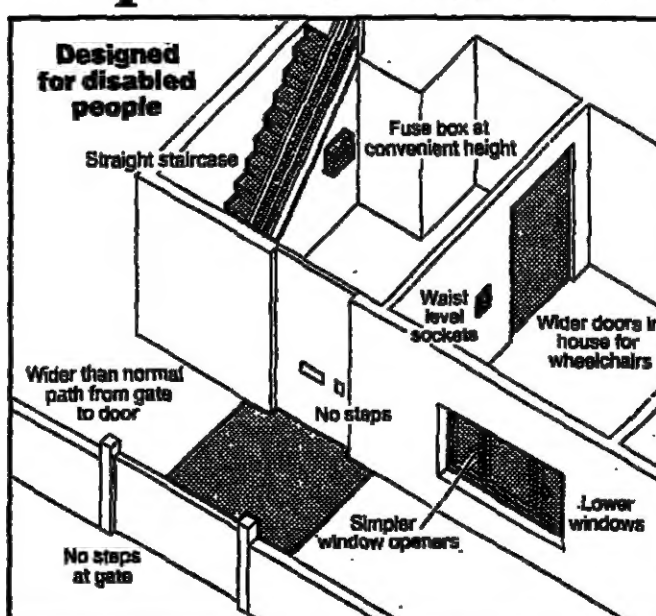
One company, Laing, is developing a "disabled pack" that can be incorporated into a house for a disabled person. Builders often complain that it would cost too much money to incorporate the changes that disabled people require.

However, Mr Peter Phippen, an architect who has specialised in schemes for the disabled and elderly, believes that a whole range of devices and aids could be built into a normal house for between £200 and £300.

Builders also make the point that although government grants are available for adapting houses for the disabled after they are built, there is no public money to pay for such aids before a house is built, which they claim would be

more helpful. Mr Ian Gov, Minister for Housing and Construction, has promised to look into that.

In addition to wider doors and corridors to enable easier turning, the advisory group says there are many detailed



design features that could help: waist-level plugs, lower windows, straight stairs (to take a stair lift if necessary), simpler window openers, and fuse boxes at a height that can be reached without having to stand on a chair.

design features that could help: waist-level plugs, lower windows, straight stairs (to take a stair lift if necessary), simpler window openers, and fuse boxes at a height that can be reached without having to stand on a chair.

Soccer decision criticized

Mr Gerald Kaufman, shadow Home Secretary, claimed yesterday that the Prime Minister's hasty action in setting up a "war cabinet" to deal with football violence highlighted her complete lack of concern about mass unemployment.

He added: "If Mrs Thatcher can personally head an urgent war cabinet to deal with soccer violence why does she not do

the same to work out plans to fight mass unemployment?"

The Cabinet group includes Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, and Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, and chaired by Mrs Thatcher.

Seven football hooligans have been banned for life by the First Division club, Sheffield Wednesday.

Bill Wilson is incurable. He's not unhelpable.

Bill Wilson wanted to be a farmer or a chef. His uncle owned a farm in Kilmarnock where Bill was born. As it happened, Bill became a chef with the BMA. He is softly spoken, and has a warm sense of humour. Some years ago, he suffered a stroke which left him severely paralysed. He came to us at Putney - a long way from his uncle's farm.

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He exercises with determination, loves to play chess (though he's short of opponents), goes to museums and occasionally cooks in the patients' kitchen.

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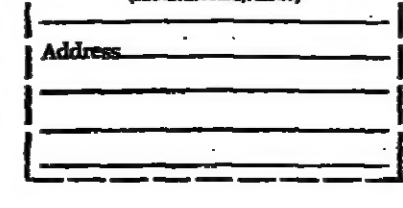
Name (BLOCK LETTERS, PLEASE)

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Cervical cancer screening provisions a shambles, shadow minister claims

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The screening provisions in Britain for cervical cancer were yesterday described as a "shambles" by Mr Frank Dobson, the shadow Minister for Health, after the disclosure that three women had developed the disease after doctors failed to tell them their tests were positive.

One woman died and two others are seriously ill in Oxfordshire. Their families complained to the community health council that the women were not informed of the positive tests.

Cervical cancer kills about 2,000 women in Britain every year, but can be cured if it is detected and treated early enough.

Mr Dobson has compiled a national survey of cervical cancer screening, and expects to publish the findings in a report within the next two weeks. The information showed that

the screening provision was a shambles, he said. "I am not surprised to learn that the cases of some people who have been screened have not been properly followed up."

Mr Dobson wants a computerized system of recording screenings. "If you have computers they would relentlessly pursue you. They would harass everybody into doing his job properly."

Mrs Jean Robinson, a member of the Oxfordshire Community Health Council, and a campaigner for patients' rights, said: "One of the most worrying statistics is a rise in cervical cancer among women who have taken regular smear tests."

"It proves the present system is falling down badly. There is an urgent need for better safeguards before more lives are lost. What is the point of cancer screening if patients are not told when the results are positive?"

Under present National Health Service practice, women taking smear tests are told they will hear nothing unless the results show an abnormality. In the three Oxfordshire cases this did not happen after their screenings three years ago.

The county's Family Practitioner Committee investigated the case of the woman who died and cleared her doctor of blame by deciding that the onus was on the patient to find out the result of her test.

Oxfordshire Area Health Authority said yesterday that it did not plan to advise women who had had cancer smears in the past three years to check with their doctors.

Dr Muir Gray, community health physician to the authority, said procedures would be tightened. "If women are anxious they can contact their GPs to find out the results of their tests, but we are not advising them to."



Testing time: Women's Royal Army Corps members Kendal Withers (left), Diane Lilley, and Linda Webber, of 83 Squadron 31 Signals, sampling their entry in the field cooking competition at the Duke of York's HQ in London yesterday. The contest was part of a Territorial Army weekend exercise (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Grandfather and children die in fire

Three children and their grandfather died in a house fire in Dumfries yesterday. The children's father, Mr Stanley Rogerson, aged 48, his wife Cathie, aged 33, and two of their other children, Olive, aged 15, and Margaret, aged 14, escaped from the fire in the semi-detached council house in Goldie Crescent.

Olive Rogerson broke an ankle when she jumped 15 feet from a window, and Mr Rogerson had to be restrained from trying to fight his way back into the house to reach Catherine, aged 16, Louise, aged 11, and Stanley, aged 10, and their grandfather, Mr Ruben Harris, aged 74, who died.

MP is sued

Mr Timothy Yeo, aged 40, Conservative MP for Suffolk South, is being sued in the High Court for libel damages over comments made on a BBC Radio 4 programme *You and Yours* about the International Fund for Animal Welfare. Mr Yeo is defending the action.

Pottery find

Eighteenth-century pottery dug up by bulldozers working on the Hanley by-pass at Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, was "one of the most important discoveries," Mr David Barker, assistant keeper of archaeology at the Stoke Museum, said.

Throat record

Mr Joe Ascoug, aged 49, a former factory worker, of Baslow Drive, Lenton Abbey, Nottingham, who is the world's most operated-on man, is to have his 327th throat operation for a recurring condition on Wednesday.

Hunters' threat

Guard dogs are to patrol the grounds of Dormy Hotel at Ferndown, Dorset, on Saturday when an anti-hunt ball is held, to keep out members of deer hunts who have said they would come.

Thatcher to face air route anger

By Michael Bailly, Transport Editor

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, will face strong protests over Britain's aviation policy when she visits South-east Asia next month.

Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines are accusing Britain of unfairly restricting the number of flights that their airlines can make to Britain, contrary to bilateral agreements.

It is thought that the reason the Government continues to protect British Airways is because it fears the airline could lose up to £10 million a year if the Asian airlines, with their lower operating costs, were given greater freedom to compete.

British Airways are keeping quiet on the issue. A spokesman said yesterday: "This is a government bilateral matter. But we support the Government in opposing applications from South-east Asia carriers for more flights to Britain."

The airline says there is ample capacity on the routes, and that their real interest is to cut out a larger share of onward traffic to other parts of the Far East and Australia.

Malaysia Airlines (MAS), Philippine Airlines (PAL), and Singapore Airlines (SIA) are all based in the world's strongest growth area for air traffic, with the triple advantage of strong economic growth in the area, ample low-cost labour, and a superb geographical position between Europe and the Pacific.

Bookings soar for holidays in Britain

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The demand for foreign package holidays is still down by nearly a third but bookings for holidays in Britain are soaring.

A range of operators, from hotel groups to coach companies and holiday organizers, are reporting increased bookings, up mostly between a tenth and a quarter.

The surge has built up over a few weeks, particularly since the end of the miners' strike, but many in the trade also believe that some holidaymakers are opting for British holidays because of price rises on Spanish package tours and reports of street violence in some parts of Spain.

Another important factor could be that the tourism industry in Britain is finally beginning to match foreign packages on brochure promotion, making it easier to sell British holidays.

Thomas Cook, one of the top three travel agency chains, reported sales of one hotel group's weekend London breaks up 23 per cent; another with traditional seaside hotels up 75 per cent; a coach tour operator up 38 per cent and another group's Channel Island holidays up 65 per cent.

While this shows increased sales through travel agents as British holiday brochures have increased on the agents' racks, a clearer indication of the volume increase in bookings comes from individual companies.

Butlins, part of the Rank organization and Britain's biggest domestic holiday operator,

reports firm bookings up 20 per cent and inquiries, including demand for brochures, up 90 per cent. The West Country seems to be the most popular.

At Minehead, Somerset, one of Butlins six holiday centres, bookings are up by more than a third. Increased bookings at Ayre Skene's coincided with the ending of the miners' strike.

Mr Bob Webb, Butlins managing director, said: "The British market was still suffering a bit during January, although not as much as the foreign holiday market, and then during February the British market took off. I am very bullish about the UK market this year."

Blakes Holidays, a boating and self-catering holiday group, reported bookings up a quarter. So did Golden Circle, part of Global.

PGL, which runs adventure holidays for children and families, said bookings for British destinations were up 15 per cent. But its bookings for adventure holidays in France were double that.

Jetset, British Caledonian's tour operating subsidiary, is to auction one thousand flights to New York on the airline's Gatwick service, for preferred departure dates in May and return dates before the end of June, are invited for any amount below the normal fare of £329 return, and must be received by April 12. Seats will be allocated, according to availability and highest bids, by April 20.

MI5 man accused of incest

An MI5 officer accused of committing incest with his daughter will appear at the Central Criminal Court on March 26.

The man, thought to be a middle-ranking officer, cannot be named as it would identify his alleged victim.

No details of his work at MI5 have been disclosed by Whitehall sources. It is understood the decision to charge him was made after Sir Thomas Hetherington, the Director of Public Prosecution, studied a police report.

Both the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary would have been told about the case.

Bishop's warning on benefits

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev. David Jenkins, has warned the Chancellor of the Exchequer not to cut social security benefits while aiding the better off in his Budget.

He said on the London Weekend Television programme, *Credo*, on Saturday night: "I think there is nearly total failure, down in the south, to appreciate how bitter people are feeling". Social divisions could start to take a much more violent form, with "one more turn of the screw".

"It would be socially disastrous, and politically very imprudent", to reduce benefits for the unemployed. The Government could not then fairly claim that burdens had to be borne for the sake of the

future, if "we who bear the costs are different from the we who inflict the costs. This seems to me threateningly divisive".

The bishop, who became a household name last year after several scathing attacks on the Government's handling of the miners' strike, said he was not willing to suggest that the Government was interested only in looking after its friends.

"I would assume that the leading members of the Government are entirely sincere. I don't think they are insincere."

He saw a choice between two kinds of society: "What you might call a police state, where the small number of wealthy people are protected in their

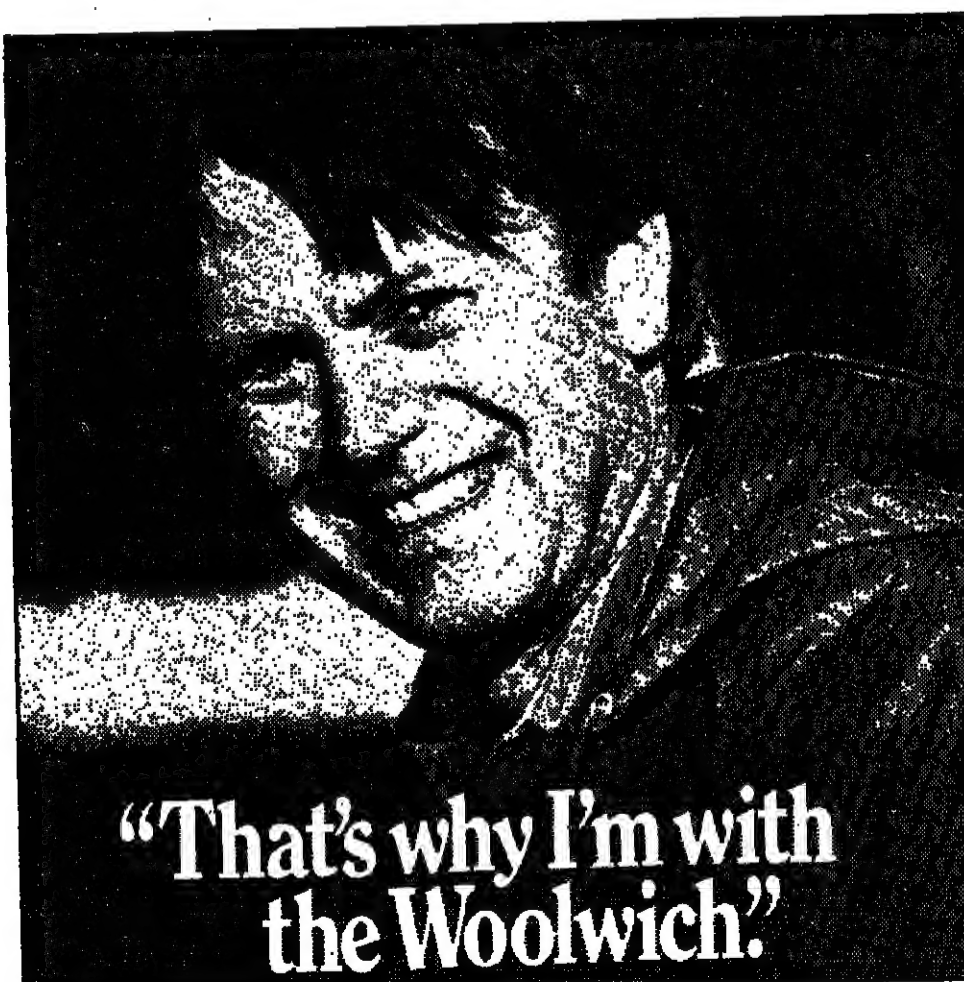
wealth against the increasing number of poor and dispossessed people; or a society in which people accepted a lower standard of living because they cared for one another."

Mr John Gummer, chairman of the Conservative Party, yesterday dismissed as "stupid" the bishop's claim that Britain could be heading for a police state.

Speaking on BBC TV's *This Week Next Week*, Mr Gummer, a member of the Church of England Synod, said: "The Bishop of Durham does not actually get his theological views orthodox. I do not expect him to be an expert on politics as well."

Dr Runcie and Mrs Thatcher, page 14

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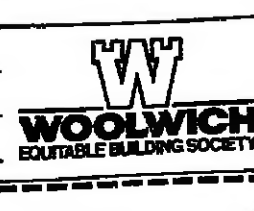
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Aids fear leads to big drop in blood donors

By Our Science Correspondent

Britain's blood transfusion service is facing serious shortages because alarm about Aids (Acquired immune deficiency syndrome) has led to fewer donations.

London's three transfusion centres are to send thousands of lapsed donors reminder cards urging them to give blood.

The Department of Health has published an advisory leaflet warning "at risk" groups not to give blood. Those groups include practising male homosexuals or bisexuals and their sexual partners, drug abusers who use intravenous injections, and people from certain African countries and Haiti.

The exclusion of those groups has inevitably led to a marked reduction in the number of donations. But although senior officials in the Department of Health and the transfusion service are certain that the measures are justified, they are also anxious to ensure that public confidence in the service is maintained.

An editorial in *Bloodline*, a newspaper published by the London transfusion, says: "Our message to donors who are in any of the risk groups is please do not give blood. To other donors we say this: you cannot contract Aids by giving blood."

"There has as yet been no case of Aids in Britain which has developed as a result of the transfusion of blood or blood products collected in the UK."

"Our priority is to prevent Aids cases developing as the result of such transfusions." About two million blood donations are collected in Britain each year. A screening test that can detect antibodies to the Aids virus in the blood is to be introduced later this year. The Department of Health's chief medical officer, Dr Donald Acheson, said the test was essential to reassure the public, and was likely to find only a small number of cases where the antibodies exist in blood donations.

Doctor ordered to be struck off for misconduct

Dr Ahsanul Haque has been ordered to be struck off the Medical Register for his adultery with a patient and his indecent behaviour towards her and two other patients.

Professor H. L. Duthie, presiding at a meeting of the General Medical Council in London on Saturday, found that Dr Haque, aged 49, had behaved grossly improperly and gravely misused his position of trust. The doctor has 28 days in which to appeal.

Dr Haque, from Witley, Ashford, Kent, faced two charges each alleging serious professional misconduct with the three patients on various dates between 1976 and 1982.

The council found Dr Haque had committed adultery with a "Mrs X" but did not find that the woman's daughter was his child.

Dr Haque had agreed he was the patients' doctor at the time of the allegations between 1976 and 1980 but denied the accusations.

Boom for plays and poetry

Arts explosion stirs Ulster

A creative revival taking place in Northern Ireland is being seen as one of the positive by-products of 16 years of instability resulting from the troubles.

The range of artistic activity, together with increasing appreciation of the arts, reflects a new cultural awareness and pride that astonishes those who remember the conservatism and inertia of past decades. New plays, books and poetry pour from the pens of local writers, indicating a new-found self-respect for the province's cultural identity.

Critics say that the inferiority complex that frequently engulfed the province's arts either in relation to Britain, or Dublin, has slowly gone, as more work opens to good reviews in the republic and is networked on the BBC.

Ironically, in the early days much of the new work by northern dramatists was first premiered in Dublin before transferring to Belfast.

Nils Lynda Henderson, a lecturer in theatre studies at

From Richard Ford, Belfast the University of Ulster, said: "It was almost embarrassing at this that forced local theatres to look more closely at contemporary writers. Now there is very strong support for new plays when they are produced in the north. A new pride in our work and what we can do has developed."

Part of the artistic explosion is linked with the trend that made regionalism fashionable, but the troubles and their effects on a small conservative society are believed by many to have had the most significant effect. Media attention has aided the revival by stimulating interest in the conflict, clash of identities, social relationships and rivalry between nationalism and unionism.

The reopening of the Grand Opera House in 1980 was a big boost to Belfast's night life. It has become an established venue for the large touring productions. At the other end of the scale, the Charnabanc Theatre Group is taking plays to local community centres in both the Roman Catholic and

Protestant working-class districts.

An exhibition of Irish impressionist art in the city has proved so popular that its run at the Ulster Museum has been extended, and in an effort to project that growing interest in the arts, the Northern Ireland Information Service, with the Arts Council in the province has produced a 24-page booklet, *Images, Arts and the People in Northern Ireland*, which is launched in Belfast today, and in London later this week.

Since 1980, an estimated 43 playwrights from Northern Ireland have had 95 plays produced in theatre, radio and television. A keen supporter for the new authors has been the BBC, with the local Radio Ulster being particularly important in giving writers an outlet.

The troubles are seen by many as the catalyst for much of the new writing, although there is some criticism of the tendency to look back and romanticize the past.

The lessons of Sizewell: 1

Radioactive disposal and decommissioning of plants reconsidered

The second nuclear power station inquiry lasted for more than a year and produced a mountain of evidence on nuclear safety and energy supplies. In the first of three articles, PEARCE WRIGHT, Science Editor, examines what emerged on transport of waste fuel and decommissioning nuclear plant.

Will obsolete nuclear power stations become the future pyramids, monuments to the twentieth century entombed in concrete to protect future generations from radiation?

The question of what to do with old nuclear power plant attracts relatively little comment from objectors to nuclear energy, but it was examined in some detail by the Central Electricity Generating Board when describing the procedures for disposal of radioactive waste from the planned pressurized water reactor station at Sizewell, on the Suffolk coast.

No commercial nuclear station anywhere in the world has yet been decommissioned. But research is in progress in Britain, the United States, France, Germany and Japan.

The entombment idea has been rejected by the CEBB. With a prospective life of 35 years, the earliest time at which the Sizewell station would be shutdown is 2025. The final phase of the dismantling might wait for 100 years after closure. Meanwhile the short and medium-life radioactive materials could decay to very low levels.

But the plan depends on availability of sites to dump waste.

The assumption has been made that some low level waste would be dumped at sea in concrete blocks, and other more active material would be buried on land. But sea dumping has been suspended after the refusal of the National Union of Seamen to handle radioactive

waste cargoes, and the Government is meeting fierce local opposition wherever it tries to find a land site.

The board says: "The possibility of not having disposal routes has only recently been considered and the CEBB is only now reconsidering its decommissioning policy in this respect."

The estimated cost of dismantling is £250 million. The first stage begins by removing all the nuclear fuel and storing it for five years in cooling ponds at the station site. This should not be difficult as each year one third of the fuel should be replaced under normal operation, and the spent fuel rods kept for at least five years before being sent to Sellafield for reprocessing.

Stage two should begin about five years after closure, involving plant outside the biological shield in which the steel vessel containing the reactor is housed. The shield is a concrete dome 50 metres in diameter and 65 metres high.

Extreme care is needed dismantling the reactor vessel and the intricate pipework forming the cooling circuit, because the metal components will have accumulated radiation.

Objects inside the reactor building would be chopped up by machines under remote control using a cable or radio link and fitted with television monitoring. The machines could be armed with oxy-acetylene, carbon-arc and cold cutting processes for steel and hydraulic breakers, diamond-

tipped saws, high pressure jets and explosives to break concrete. The debris would be in two to three-ton concrete blocks ready for dumping.

During the operation of the station the radioactive waste chain begins with the spent fuel rods, and a decision has yet to be taken on whether to keep the rods intact or to have them chopped up and the plutonium extracted at Sellafield.

Whatever is decided, the CEBB expects irradiated fuel rods to be transported by rail from Sizewell. Although the board has yet to choose the type of flask for this purpose, about 10 journeys a year are forecast.

The first consignment will not leave until more than five years after the start of a station, wherever one is built. The rods have to be kept for five years, to reduce the activity of the fission products to a level enabling them to be moved with safety from their silo comprising a reinforced concrete pond with a stainless steel lining.

There are about 1,500 journeys a year from nuclear power stations in the UK to Sellafield, and a large number go through London. Hence, anxiety about accidents was expressed by the Greater London Council at the inquiry. The board estimates that the likelihood of a serious accident in which radioactivity would be released was one in 1,000 million.

The GLC said that by directing fuel through the capital the CEBB was in breach of its own requirement that risks be as low as reasonably achievable.

The board's confidence rests in the use of flasks manufactured to standards set by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Tomorrow: Safety at work

Protest at 'failure' to act on acid rain

By John Young
Agriculture Correspondent

Leaders of environmental groups from several European countries, among them West Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden and Austria, are to meet Mr William Waldegrave, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, in London today, to protest at the Government's failure to take steps to curb acid rain.

The delegation will include Frau Beate Webber, chairman of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection in the European Parliament.

Britain has so far declined to join the so-called "30 per cent club", a group of industrialized nations committed to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions from power station and factory chimneys by 30 per cent within the next decade. It has also refused to ratify a proposed European Economic Community directive calling for reduction of 60 per cent in sulphur dioxide emissions and 40 per cent in nitrous oxide, by 1995.

Sulphur depositions are widely held to be responsible for the increasing acidification of rivers and lakes in Northern Europe, to the point where many can no longer sustain aquatic life.

Acid rain is also blamed for the large numbers of dead and dying conifers in Germany and southern Scandinavia. The evidence is inconclusive, but nitrous oxide is thought to have contributed to a build-up of ozone in the atmosphere.

The results of a recent Forestry Commission survey announced last week, found no evidence of abnormal damage to forests in Britain.

The Central Electricity Generating Board has repeatedly said that to install equipment to trap sulphur emitted from power station chimneys would mean a sharp rise in consumer prices.

Inquest hope for victims

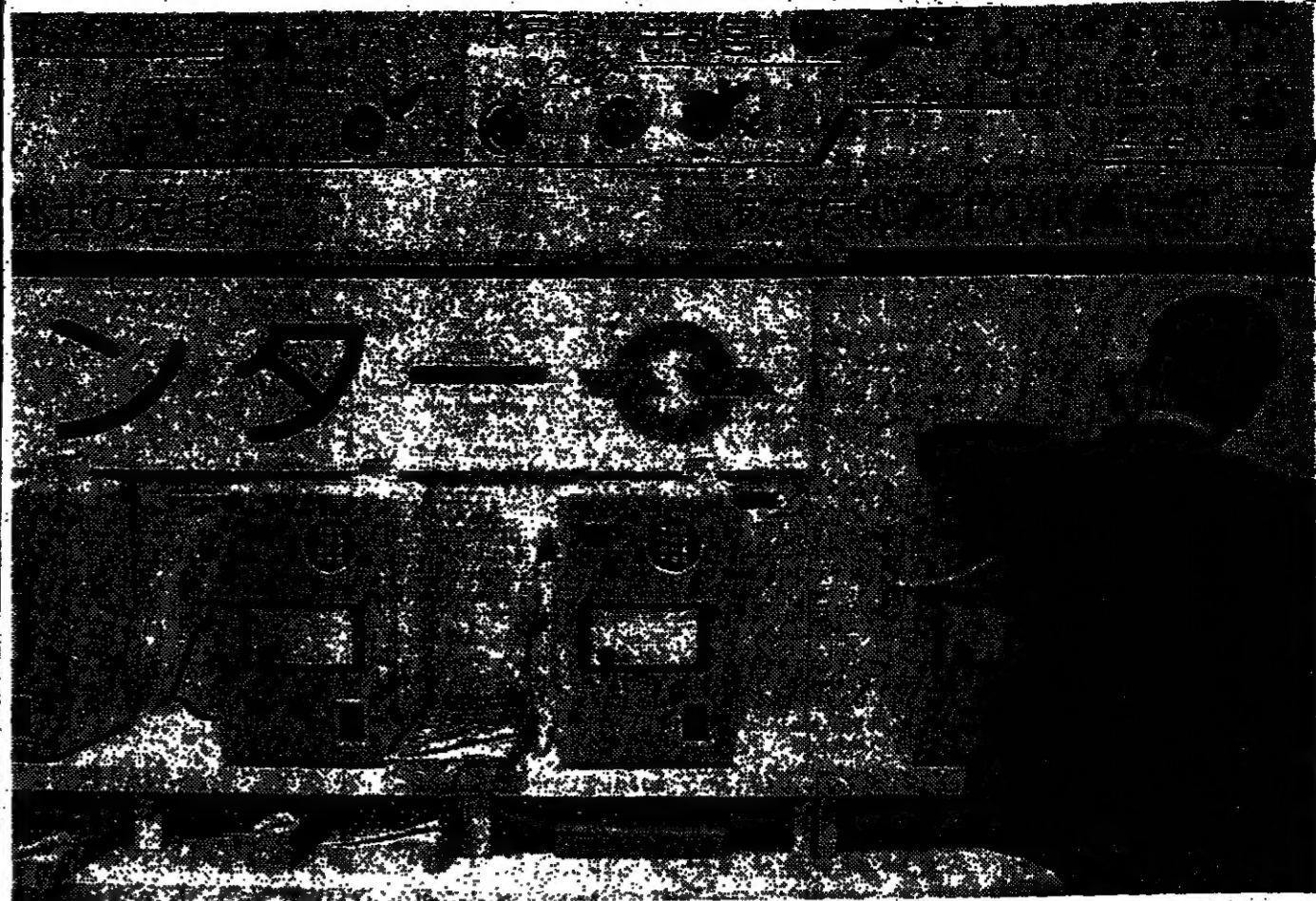
An inquest to be held in Penzance, Cornwall, is being looked upon as a possible breakthrough in the campaign to get substantial government compensation for British service-men who were at nuclear tests in the Pacific in the 1950s and subsequently became can-

cer victims.

The inquest will be on a former Royal Navy chief petty officer, Kenneth Measures, who died in 1983, aged 54.

The British Nuclear Test Victims Association expects the inquest to go a considerable way to helping its campaign

Privatization after the British pattern



Right line: A system ripe for change and improvement (Photograph: Robin Laurance).

Scrambling into the information age

Following in the steps of British Telecom, Japan's telephone system is to be privatized. In the first of two articles, David Wears in Tokyo describes how the Government is setting about the task.

The Japanese Telephone Corporation has never had a zesty outlook on life. Over-manned and encircled by government regulations and bureaucracy, its saving graces were profitability and a good research sector.

For years its monopoly has put a lid on the pressure-cooker of private communication. Even today many otherwise bright, innovative companies send letters to their branches in Tokyo in the hands of a trusty employee on a bicycle. In a typical office there is scarcely a modern phone in sight.

NTT's control over all telephone circuits, its pricing policies and sluggish bureaucracy have prevented private business communications from developing as rapidly as they have done in Britain and the United States.

Cultural factors, too, have left automation and computerization in the average Japanese

company lagging behind its British counterpart. The cumbersome nature of the written language has inhibited widespread use of word processors until recently.

Telephone installations often mean months of waiting, and many firms allocate a single telephone to anything up to 10 staff. The remainder are often allocated according to seniority in a still hierarchical society.

But over the last two years the pressure to bring the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT) into the 1980s has become irresistible. On April 1 the lid will blow off the pressure cooker and a scramble to get into Japan's "information age" begins when NTT is privatized.

When NTT was founded 33 years ago it was modelled on the American telephone system. The Japanese were naturally inclined to follow the American experience of privatization. Until, that is, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications saw the proposed British legislation for the privatization of British Telecom.

It was decided to follow the



British pattern by not breaking the company into regional firms. That is indicative of the generally cautious approach to privatization in Japan, not all of the cake will come onto the market straight away, and nothing will be on sale to foreigners.

The "new" NTT will retain the main structure of the present firm, while making shares available to the public, and will allow competition from all-comers, as in Britain. But the privatization legislation passed by the Diet, or Parliament, differs from both the

British and American models in another important aspect.

The Bill defines two categories of telecommunications operator. The first owns its own circuits by cable, optical fibre or satellite, and offers telephone and other services; the second would lease circuits from NTT and offer computer-to-computer links and a vast array of other services.

The Government's motives, too, are different from those in Britain. The sale is part of a long-term strategy to move into the information era and to free the energies of the private sector to get Japan moving.

The foundation for the era of computers in every home, office and factory began two years ago when NTT installed the first stages of the "information highway" of optical fibres. These are part of the "information network system" carrying voice, video and data services which will encompass the country at a cost of up to \$130 billion over the next 20 years.

Tomorrow: Sharing the new business.

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Peres announces speed-up of Israeli troop withdrawal from Lebanon

New York (AP) — The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Shimon Peres, yesterday said that his country's withdrawal from Lebanon, plagued by terrorist attacks, is being accelerated and should be almost completed in eight to 10 weeks.

A ten-week completion would mean most Israeli troops out by the end of May, an advance of some eight weeks on the present deadline by Israeli military planners.

Mr Peres said in an interview on the CBS-TV programme "Face the Nation": "The real problem is of an operational nature — namely, how long will it take our army to withdraw from Lebanon in an orderly manner? I think it is a matter of weeks, not more."

He denied that Israel had anything to do with the

uprisings by Lebanese Christians against the government of President Amin Gemayel.

"Absolutely not," he said. "We are on our way out not only from the land of Lebanon but from the politics of Lebanon."

Israeli attacks in response to terrorist actions by Shia Muslims are not an "iron fist" policy, he said, but merely a way to "defend the lives of our soldiers."

● JERUSALEM: Supporters of a new campaign seeking early withdrawal yesterday claimed that it would be boosted by the continuing rise in the death toll. Yesterday two more Israeli soldiers were killed and five injured in an ambush in Jibchit, a Muslim village west of Nabatiya.

The campaign has the backing of a number of senior reserve army officers, who claim there are no military reasons why the pullout cannot be speeded up. Mr Peres' statement yesterday will have pre-empted some of its aims.

On Saturday night more than 10,000 Israelis — including soldiers just back from Lebanon and relatives of some of the 640 Jewish casualties — gathered in Tel Aviv's main square to launch the campaign, which is organized by the Peace Now movement.

Yesterday Mr Amnon Rubenstein, the Communications Minister, was rebuffed when he sought a Cabinet debate for a more speedy withdrawal. He said later that he would overcome the procedural blockage in two weeks.

Ministers fish for an answer to Spain

From Ian Murray
Brussels

Spain's huge fishing fleet preoccupies EEC foreign ministers in Brussels last night as they began what could be the last major talks to fix terms for allowing Spain and Portugal into the Community from next year.

The meeting, due to last through Wednesday, will also discuss how to finance EEC running costs this year, including a \$500 million promised concession to Britain.

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German minister, said he would never agree to an essential increase in EEC resources until Spain and Portugal were inside the Community, but he would demand some of the most difficult conditions for allowing enlargement.

The most difficult issue is over fishing rights, with all 10 member states determined not to agree anything which could unravel the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

The main fishing countries do not want Spain to be allowed to catch fish in EEC waters in a way which will upset the balance of the CFP. Britain wants Spain to join the CFP from the start of next year, but allow it only to fish limited quotas from a few boats outside the main fishing waters.

Spanish negotiators say they are not prepared to accept second class terms



Heads down: M. Jacques Delors the EEC president, right, with Signor Lorenzo Natali, the Italian commissioner, before talks between the Community's foreign ministers, yesterday.

Ideally, entry terms should be agreed by the summit meeting at the end of this month if they are to be ratified by the parliaments of all 10 member states before next year.

If they are not, there can be no increase in the Community's income because West Germany, supported by France, has linked the two issues.

Britain is anxious because there is no agreement there can be no money available to grant it the \$600 million compensation it is promised this year.

The third linked question is how much extra money the EEC will grant Greece in a special programme to help it cope with enlargement.

Acid rain clouds Reagan summit with Mulroney

From Trevor Fishlock, Quebec

Mr Brian Mulroney, the Canadian Prime Minister, and President Reagan began their summit meeting here yesterday determined to rebuild the traditionally good relationship between their two countries that grew frosty in Mr Pierre Trudeau's time as Prime Minister.

Certainly Mr Mulroney has worked hard during the six months he has been in power to please the President. Now he wants Mr Reagan to help him out on a particularly difficult issue. But the Canadians suspect that the President with good-natured smiles and blarney, and affirmations of abiding friendship, will leave the Prime Minister in the lurch.

The issue is acid rain, the fallout from American smokestack industries which drifts northwards and corrodes Canada's forests and poisons its lakes.

Canadians are angered and alarmed by this pollution. Because it is a hot domestic issue, Mr Mulroney promised them it would be top of the summit agenda.

But Washington has indicated that the President will not be offering much. The Americans are reluctant to spend money on a large scale clean-up or to crack down on industry. The Reagan line has always been that more research is needed. Talks between the two governments are at stalemate. Nevertheless, the two leaders

will emphasize their large areas of agreement. Canada and the United States are each others' largest trading partners and commerce between them is worth \$113,000m (£105,000m) a year.

The Americans want Canada to take the initiative on freer trade across the border. Mr Mulroney has pleased the Americans, and risks upsetting some Canadians, by relaxing the Trudeau restrictions on American investment.

He has shown his willingness to shoulder a larger defence burden by committing more troops to NATO. And at the summit, the two leaders will sign an agreement on improving the radar warning line that stretches 3,000 miles from Greenland to Alaska.

Mr Mulroney has given muted support to research into Mr Reagan's "Star Wars" ideas. He has also permitted cruise missile testing over Canada, something that stirred the country's strong pacifist lobby into action.

The Prime Minister has emphasized, however, that Canada will not allow American nuclear weapons to be sited in Canada. "We are not a superpower and we do not have a nuclear dimension to our policy," he said in a television interview before the summit. "Canada does not have nuclear weapons, nor shall it during the life of this Government."

Rebels undaunted by Syrian threat

Beirut (Reuters) — Christian militiamen kept up their revolt yesterday against plans giving more power to Lebanon's Muslims despite strong warnings from Damascus that it would not stand idly by.

Syrian troops massed this weekend on the northern boundaries of Lebanese territory held by the rebels, who revolted last week against Syrian-backed efforts by President Amin Gemayel, a fellow

Christian, to reach a political accord with the Muslims.

Lebanese security sources said three Syrian brigades were deployed on a 16 mile front from the Beirut-Tripoli coastal highway onto hills a few miles south of Tripoli.

Beirut newspapers quoted Rashid Karami, the Prime Minister as telling confidants on Saturday that Syrian troops would intervene only at the request of the Beirut

government.

The right wing Christian Falangist radio said a three-man committee representing Mr Gemayel, the rebels and a neutral figure had hammered out a draft compromise solution on Saturday night and was consulting unspecified groups on ways to implement it.

The rebels have disowned Mr Gemayel as a Christian spokesman and want the formation of a National Christian Council

Russia's mobile missiles Shultz questions new deployments

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, expressed concern last night that the Soviet Union has begun to deploy mobile intercontinental missiles. He said this would make it difficult for America to count them, or to keep track of where they were. "To me it is a clear new missiles," he added.

American officials are divided about their response to the apparent new deployment. There are indications that the Soviet Union is destroying some older silo-based missiles perhaps in order to stay within the limits set down in the Salt 2 arms agreement.

Mr Shultz suggested that the mobile weapons may be a violation of the terms of the treaty, but added: "There are questions about whether in a purely technical sense it fits within certain treaty languages as might be interpreted by a lawyer."

Some American officials believe that the mobile missiles, if they are replacing silo-based weapons, may represent a loss threatening nuclear armory, even if it is more difficult to monitor. Others, however, believe the first of the mobile missiles being deployed, the single warhead SS25s, violate the Salt 2 agreement. The larger 10-warhead SS24 missile, according to some officials, could result in a new nuclear escalation. The SS24 can be moved by rail.

The issue of the mobile weapons is certain to be brought up in the Geneva arms talks. The United States may seek to bring the missile clearly into the Salt 2 agreement, which expires at the end of this year. The accord was never ratified by the US Senate. According to American sources, the Soviet Union has agreed to discuss revised Salt 2 limits at Geneva.

Mr Shultz carefully avoided saying yesterday whether the US take action to stop exceeding the Salt 2 limits, but allow a maximum of 1,200 multi-warhead missiles on land and sea. Unless it destroys some older missiles the United States exceed the limits when the submarine Alaska goes on sea trials later this year with 24 missiles.

Mr Robert McFarlane, the White House national security adviser, last week described the SS-24s as "swivel carry a big payload, are mobile and are accurate."

That view, however, is far from unanimous. ● BRUSSELS: Tens of thousands of demonstrators marched peacefully through the heart of Brussels yesterday in protest at the decision of the Belgian Government to allow deployment of 16 cruise missiles at an air base 50 miles south of the capital (Ian Murray writes).

Leading article, page 13

Chinese in Hong Kong rethink

From Mary Lee
Peking

There are signs of a major change in attitude among senior Chinese officials on the question of Hong Kong representation on the Basic Law (the territory's post-1997 constitution) Drafting Committee, three months after Britain and China signed a joint declaration on Hong Kong.

When Mrs Margaret Thatcher went to Peking in December, she said China would not allow Hong Kong representation on the drafting committee.

Peking, however, appears to have taken note of demands by pressure groups in Hong Kong for more direct participation.

A recent report from Peking in the Hong Kong pro-Peking Chinese daily, Ta Kung Pao, said more than 10 Hong Kong Chinese would sit on the Basic Law Drafting Committee.

It also said Peking was considering inviting Hong Kong's legislative and executive councillors as well as government officials to join the committee.

Courts feel Peking influence

From David Bonavia
Hong Kong

Hong Kong legal circles are questioning the proposal by the Government to limit the use of juries in trials involving commercial crimes and replacing them when considered necessary by three adjudicators in addition to the judge.

The rationale for the change is that commercial crime trials are often protracted and involve technical matters on which lay juries may not be qualified to decide.

At present most magistrates' courts proceedings are conducted in English with interpretation into Cantonese. The Government has disclosed that it will lower the standard of qualification for magistrates to bring in more Cantonese-speakers.

When Hong Kong becomes a special administrative region of China, there may be pressure to switch to the use of Mandarin in the courts and government. It is also feared that the transfer of sovereignty may prevent liberalisation of morality-related legislation against homosexuality and gambling.

'Furious' worker kills four after reprimand

South Connellsville, Pennsylvania (AP) — A factory worker "furious" over a reprimand knocked out a security guard, killed four supervisors and wounded a fifth before killing himself on Saturday.

Mansel "Sonny" Hammett, aged 39, was an employee of the Anchor Glass Container Co. He had been sent home for disciplinary action and returned to work with a handgun. He overpowered a gate guard, entered the plant, shooting and

took the lives of four individuals, and wounded another before turning the gun on himself.

Mr Phillip Halfhill, 46, a box loader at the plant, said Hammett was angry about being disciplined for talking to his wife.

"He got furious over it and they took him into the office and suspended him 'till further notice. So he left and came back with a gun and started shooting," Mr Halfhill said.

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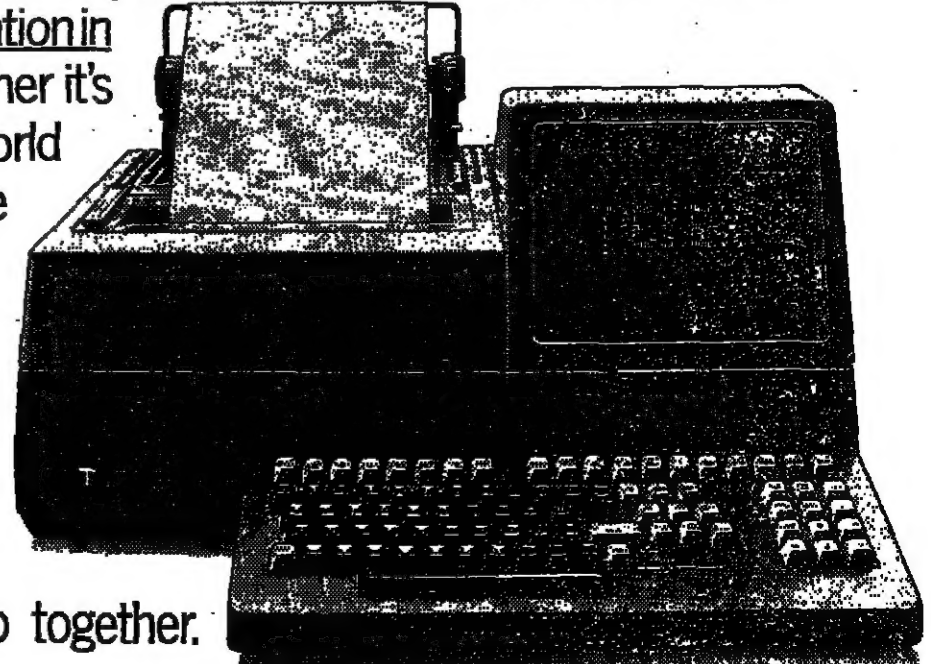
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Army make a show of the drugs battle in Mexico's poppy fields

Drug abuse, according to a recent report to the United States Congress, is becoming America's main health problem. An estimated 10 million use cocaine. Double that number regularly use marijuana and perhaps 500,000 take heroin. The US illegal drugs industry is worth \$110 billion a year, and it is suggested that the Government is losing the fight to stem the drugs flow. The traffickers are overwhelming the

efforts of customs officials and drug enforcement agents, and law officers. The apparently insatiable demands for illicit drugs are having a devastating effect south of the Rio Grande, where poorer countries gain funds by producing drugs for the US. Below John Carlin examines Mexico's efforts to reduce the flow of drugs and right Geoffrey Matthews looks at the situation in Bogotà.

In the wake of the kidnapping and brutal murder of American drug enforcement agent Enrique Camarena, whose badly decomposed body was discovered by Mexican police on March 6, outraged Washington officials have called for "more seriousness and less corruption in the war against drugs".

Characteristically sensitive to rebukes from their northern neighbours, the Mexican Press has lashed out in turn, asking what right "Gringo" agents have to be operating in Mexico in the first place. Government officials have judiciously bitten their tongues but privately they are seething.

President Miguel de la Madrid's public relations people, while sharing in the widespread indignation, have responded shrewdly. They set up a trip for the foreign press to observe the Mexican army's drug-fighting operations.

The General made the requisite pompous speech and then, with a briskness quite out of

character in Mexico, the were put on to a bus, driven a short way, and taken off again. An officer consulted a list, and each journalist was assigned his place in one of six waiting helicopters, all of which promptly took off towards Mexico's narcotics heartland.

The mountains of Sinaloa, part of a massive backbone range reaching down the country to the Guatemalan border, are the main source of Mexico's booming heroine trade, which provides 38 per cent of the United States' 500,000 addicts, according to official US figures.

After flying for an hour over vast, isolated, fertile mountain territory, the helicopters circled and landed in a small sheltered valley bright red with poppy fields in full bloom.

At an order from the General, a busy master of ceremonies, a smaller helicopter appeared suddenly, swooped low, and fumigated back and forth over 1,500 square metres, poppy fields whose street value when

converted to opium gum and processed into heroin, would have been several hundred thousand dollars.

Suitably edified, the journalists were instructed by the General to follow him along a mountain trail to witness the destruction of a marijuana field. Three hours later, having clambered over rocks, been scratched up and down dusty mountain sides and waded through streams, and having shed on the way a crestfallen, exhausted General the journalists were shown a green marijuana crop, soon to be sprayed with paraquat.

Several other smaller poppy and marijuana plantations had been passed on the way.

In three hours, just half a mile had been covered. In Sinaloa alone there are 10,000 square miles of mountains and deep, naturally-irrigated valleys exposed to constant sunshine. "Marijuana and poppies grow like weeds here", said the soldier.



Armed Colombian police supervising the dumping of processed cocaine packages in the Caribbean Sea.

US staff flee Bogotà 'coke' bombs

For once, a leading Bogotà newspaper columnist notes with dark humour, the State Department in Washington is echoing that old cry of the hard left in Colombia: "Gringos, go home."

Suddenly, US citizens living in Colombia are doing just that, because of death threats by drug racketeers following the recent extraditions to the US of four alleged "capos" in the illicit cocaine and marijuana trade.

The US Ambassador, Mr Lewis Tamba, who returned to Washington in December, is

now working to prepare for President Betancur's visit early next month, when drugs will be a main topic of discussion. The Ambassador is not expected to return to Bogotà, where it is widely believed that a "connection" has a contract out on his life.

The US Embassy is working under fortress-like security, and staff go to and from work in official vans with armed guards. As a result of threats by the *Mafiosi*, it is now mainly staffed by single people.

The State Department has sent married diplomats and

their families home or has reassigned them to other countries, drafting in unmarried staff after a bomb exploded outside the embassy when the extraditions were being processed. Another exploded outside Mr Tamba's official residence before he left town.

The alarm - in some quarters, hysteria - which has swept through the US community, mindful of Iran and Grenada, is understandable. US tourism to Colombia has fallen off dramatically.

The drug mafia's contract

killers have murdered Colombian judges, magistrates, detectives, journalists and priests who have dared to investigate the racket, as well as Justice Minister, Señor Rodrigo Lara Bonilla.

President Betancur's discussions with President Reagan are likely to go quite well, since the US has recently been fulsome in its praise of Colombia's campaign to smash the cocaine and marijuana racket. His efforts, in the US view, contrast sharply with what Washington regards as inaction by other nations.

Unita's hostages fly to safety

Johannesburg (Reuters) - The Red Cross has flown 27 foreign prisoners, including three Britons, freed by Angolan Unita guerrillas to a tearful welcome by friends and relatives in South Africa.

Mr Glen Dixon, from Longborough, foreman in a diamond mine, said he covered for hours in a house when Unita attacked. He surrendered when a rocket-propelled grenade demolished a wall.

Unita seized 22 of the captives in raids on diamond mines in north-east Angola last year. Five Portuguese were unexpectedly added to the group released to the Red Cross.

Jet engineer killed

Tel Aviv - Mr George Lloyd, aged 61, a British engineer employed by Israel Aircraft Industries, was stabbed to death on Saturday night in his flat in Ramat Gan, a Tel Aviv suburb.

Police say he was working on a new business jet, and that there was no sign of disorder in the flat.

Hanging matter

Mbabane (AFP) - Anyone found possessing human flesh or bones without reasonable cause could be hanged in public, says a Swazi MP, claiming that human sacrifice is hurting Swaziland's reputation.

Policeman shot

Cebu, Philippines (AFP) - Two gunmen have shot dead Mayor Wilfredo Aparri, the police chief of this central Philippine city, at a noodle factory where he worked as a security consultant.

Contadora date

Brasilia (NY T) - The Contadora group of nations is to resume its Central American peace efforts after a six-month interruption. The group will meet in Panama on April 11 and 12.

Dance death

Dar es-Salaam (AFP) - Miss Mwamvita Francis Bwaha, aged 14, disco champion of Dar es-Salaam, committed suicide with an overdose of anti-malaria tablets after a family quarrel over her devotion to break-dancing.

Immunity plea



Mr Norman Saunders, aged 41, the Chief Minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands held in jail in lieu of \$2 million bail on drug conspiracy charges. He is seeking diplomatic immunity. His lawyer told Miami Federal Court, Mr Saunders and three associates were arrested in Miami on March 5.

7,000 detained

Hanoi (AFP) - Some 7,000 people are being detained in re-education camps for having collaborated with Americans or the Saigon Government during the Vietnam war, according to the Vietnamese Foreign Minister, Mr Nguyen Co Thach.

180mph gale

Suva (Reuters) - A "super-hurricane" with winds of up to 180mph hit Fiji, bringing down power lines and forcing 1,500 people to leave their homes. No casualties are reported.

Egypt plan to break peace hitch

By Our Foreign Staff

President Mubarak of Egypt flies to Jordan today to discuss with King Husain ways of promoting a dialogue between the United States and the Palestinians following Washington's refusal to take part in Middle East peace talks with a joint Jordanian-PLO delegation.

It now looks as if Jordan and Egypt will come up with Palestinian representatives who would be acceptable to both the PLO and the United States as members of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

The US refuses to sit down with PLO members unless the guerrilla organization accepts UN Resolution 242, which affirms Israel's right to exist. Israel has steadfastly refused to negotiate with the PLO or any Arab delegation which includes PLO members.

On his arrival in Cairo on Saturday night, President Mubarak told reporters that the US had not rejected his plan for a US Palestinian dialogue outright.

President Mubarak is expected to brief King Husain on his recent round of talks with European leaders which were designed, diplomatic sources said, to win support for the plan and persuade western governments to put pressure on their US allies and Israel.

Earlier on Saturday, he gained support for his proposals from the West German Chancellor, Herr Helmut Kohl.

Later, he won a declaration of support in Venice from the Italian Prime Minister, Signor Bettino Craxi, who is currently President of the European Community.

NEW YORK: In an interview in yesterday's *New York Times*, King Husain said, the US must take part in the Middle East peace process by meeting a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and any negotiations must involve the PLO (AP reports).

MONTREAL: Peace can be achieved in the Middle East with patience but not with the PLO, the Israeli Foreign Minister Mr Yitzhak Shamir said on Saturday (AP reports). Speaking to 1,500 in a local synagogue, Mr Shamir said that Israel was willing to hold peace talks with Egypt and Jordan but not the PLO. "PLO and peace, it's a contradiction," he said to applause. "Israel will be in the Middle East forever."

Spoilt votes stop judge in Greek president poll

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Supreme Court Judge Christos Sarizetakis failed to capture the required two-thirds majority of 200 votes for election as the new President of Greece in the first round of voting in Parliament yesterday.

The 56-year-old judge is now expected to scrape home in the third and final ballot on March 29 when only a three-fifths majority of 180 votes is needed.

Mr Sarizetakis, who was nominated as the candidate of the ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) instead of the incumbent President Karamanlis, won 178 votes from the 297 deputies who took part in the secret ballot. Mr Karamanlis resigned last weekend over Pasok's plans to revise the 1975 Constitution and their decision to drop him as their presidential nominee.

All but one of the conservative Opposition New

Democracy's 112 deputies were present in the chamber, but abstained from voting in protest against the Socialists' last-minute decision to reject Mr Karamanlis as a consensus candidate.

Three deputies did not take part in the vote and three others cast blank ballot papers. Three votes were ruled invalid because they had been marked "No to totalitarianism."

Mr Yiannis Alevras, the Speaker of the House, who is serving as acting Head of State until a new President is elected, did not vote. Parliament is due to decide today whether he is eligible to vote in the election while carrying out the President's duties.

On the basis of yesterday's figures, Mr Alevras' vote will be essential if Judge Sarizetakis is to win the election on March 29.

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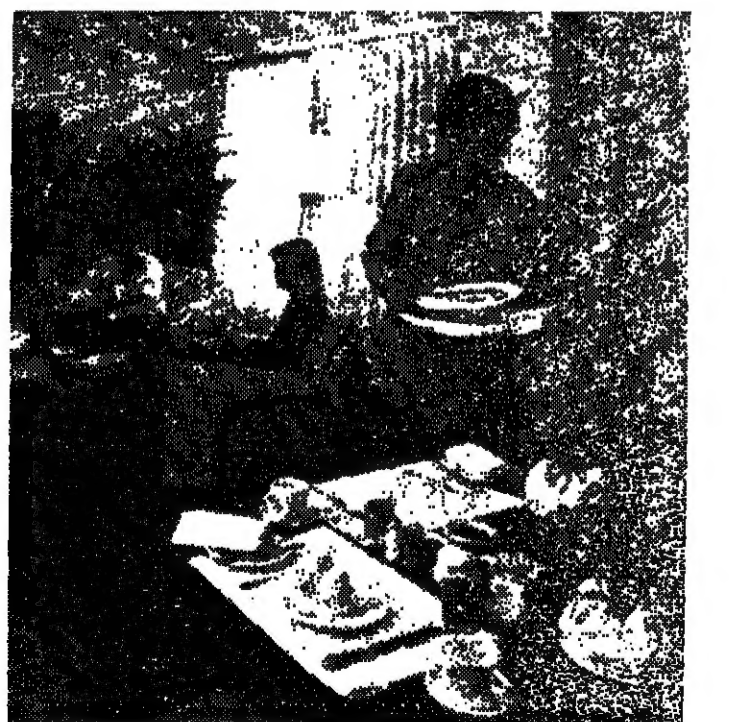
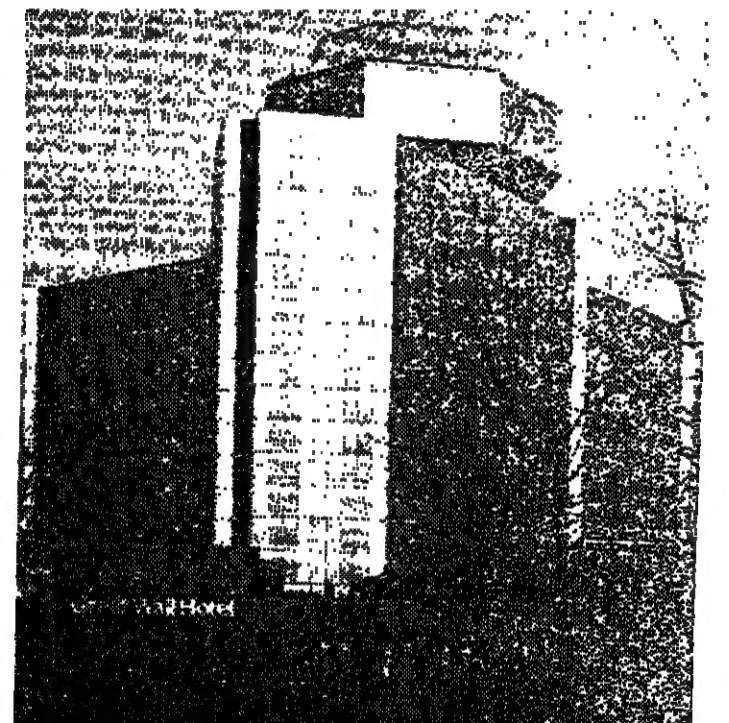
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Cautious Bonn welcome for signs of thaw in Honecker's approach

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

With deliberate caution and reticence, the Bonn Government is analysing the signs that East Berlin is now ready for warmer relations with West Germany in the wake of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's summit meeting in Moscow with Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader.

Chancellor Kohl said on his return from the Chernobyl funeral on Friday that the new leadership in the Soviet Union and the arms limitation talks in Geneva marked the beginning of a period of improved contacts between East and West.

Although he refused to say whether the accession of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev would give East Germany more room for manoeuvre in its relations with Bonn, there are strong hopes here that the flurry of contacts between the two countries in the past two weeks marks the end of the sudden chill that followed the cancellation of Herr Honecker's visit here last September.

Observers pointed to the

unprecedented joint communiqué issued in Moscow after the lengthy meeting between the two German leaders on Tuesday. They emphasised after more than two hours of cordial talks their will to improve their ties, seizing on the recent forthright statement by Herr Kohl on his Government's attitude to West Germany's borders to underline both countries' respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states in Europe.

No mention was made of a date for a possible Honecker visit here, but senior Christian Democrats are confidently predicting that he might reschedule the twice-cancelled visit for later this year.

Mindful of the difficulties too much discussion and publicity could cause Herr Honecker in Moscow, however, Bonn is being careful not to speculate on East Berlin's discussions with the Russians on this. It is clear, however, that if Herr Honecker does come, he will be received with full ceremonial honour and protocol in Bonn as a head

of state by President Richard von Weizsäcker.

Herr Kohl's state of the nation address recently, putting a firm stop to any more discussion about German reunification and recognition of Poland's western frontier, appears to have had an immediate effect on West Germany's relations with its eastern neighbours.

Herr Honecker, most unusually, specifically welcomed this statement, and it seems clear that the East German leader, who was known to be unhappy at the cooling of relations with Bonn, was able to use this to argue with his Warsaw Pact allies for a renewal of contacts with West Germany.

Last week Herr Martin Bangemann, the Economics Minister, visited East Berlin for important discussions with Herr Günter Mittag, a senior East German Politburo member. He was also received by Herr Honecker, and expressed hopes afterwards for a rapid return to better bilateral relations.

Public suspicious of Neves illness

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo

Brazil's new civilian President, Señor Tancredino Neves is recovering well from his emergency intestinal operation, according to official sources.

He has walked and his temperature is normal, although he is still not eating and is

drinking only tea. He is not allowed to see television or read newspapers and has had few visitors apart from his family, although one may have been President Raul Alfonsín of Argentina.

However, many people are convinced that there is more than meets the eye to Señor

Neves's sudden illness and the fact that Senator José Sarney, the Vice-President, who was a member of the military government until only a few months ago, is temporarily in charge.

There was a short meeting in Brasília between Vice-President George Bush of the United States and President Daniel Oriza of Nicaragua.

South Africa has announced the uncovering of "a criminal gang", based in Johannesburg and involved in smuggling and printing counterfeit money, which is allegedly part of a multinational fund-raising operation for the Renamo insurgents inside Mozambique.

Mr R. F. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, disclosed this at a press conference in Pretoria on Saturday, the first anniversary of the signing of the Nkomati non-aggression accord by Pretoria and Maputo.

The accord is threatened by

mounting evidence that the insurgents are continuing to receive assistance from South African soil, and that Pretoria is unwilling or unable to stop it. Mr Botha set out to show that South Africa is doing its best to honour its side of the Nkomati bargain.

While admitting that pro-Renamo groups were active in South Africa, he claimed that finance for the insurgents was also coming from "an international web of bankers, financiers and businessmen with large political and economic interests in Africa,

Latin America and Europe".

From the evidence gathered so far, the counterfeit South African 50 rand notes and American \$100 bills printed by the criminal gang were allegedly used to pay for ivory, diamonds, emeralds, and other goods smuggled out of Mozambique.

The smuggled goods were then sold on the international market for real money which was used to buy arms and other supplies for Renamo.

Mr Botha said two of the main members of the gang had fled to a European country.

Botha exposes Renamo backers

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

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Law Report March 18-1985

Libel award stands

Pamplin v Express Newspapers Ltd

Before Lord Justice Oliver, Lord Justice Purchas and Lord Justice Neill (Judgment delivered February 27)

Where the jury in a libel action intended to and did award the minimum damages for injury to the plaintiff's general reputation, the judge directed them to disregard the evidence of costs and specific acts of misconduct alleged against the plaintiff was not a ground for setting aside the jury's verdict.

The Court of Appeal, in a reserved judgment, dismissed an appeal by the plaintiff, Mr Barry Francis Pamplin, a solicitor's clerk, against the jury's award of one half-penny against Express Newspapers Ltd.

Mr Nigel Ley for the plaintiff and the plaintiff in person; Mr Peter Cresswell, QC, and Mr Andrew Calverley for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the plaintiff complained of a leading article published in the Sunday Express on October 21, 1979. The article called him a "spy" and the defendants set up the defences of *inter alia*, fair comment and justification.

The case was tried before Mr Justice Bristow and a jury in October 1982. The jury awarded the plaintiff £12,000. In May 1983, the Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by the defendants on the grounds of misdirection and lack of direction on the issue of damages. A new trial was ordered.

That took place in October 1983 before Mr Justice Bristow and a jury, who found in favour of the plaintiff on the issue of liability and awarded him one halfpenny damages.

The plaintiff's primary submission was that the judge misdirected the jury in telling them that they could take account in mitigation of damages of specific acts of misconduct which had been relied on by the defendants as part of their unsuccessful defence of justification.

In considering what evidence could be used in mitigation of damages it was necessary to draw a distinction between evidence which was put forward to show that the plaintiff was a man of bad reputation and evidence which was already before the court on some other issue.

Evidence which related solely to the plaintiff's bad reputation and which was used to support an argument that he should receive a smaller sum by way of damages than a person of unblemished reputation was governed by certain general rules.

But a defendant was also entitled to rely in mitigation of damages on any other evidence which was properly before the court and jury. That other evidence could include evidence which had been primarily directed to, for example, a plea of justification or fair comment.

There might be many cases, however, where a defendant who put forward a plea of justification would be unable to prove sufficient facts to establish the defence at common law and would also be unable to bring himself within the statutory extension of the defence contained in section 5 of the Defamation Act 1952.

Nevertheless the defendant might be able to rely on such facts as he had proved to reduce the damages, perhaps almost to vanishing point. Thus a defence of partial justification, though it might not prevent the plaintiff from succeeding on the issue of liability, might be of great importance on the issue of damages.

It seemed to his Lordship that the judge failed to keep in mind the

distinction between the reduction in damages which might flow from partial justification and the reduction which might flow from the fact that the plaintiff might already have a blemished reputation; and as a result, he invited the jury to take into account all the matters raised as part of the defence of justification as evidence directed to his reputation.

However, his Lordship was of the opinion that the misdirections occasioned no substantial wrong or miscarriage of justice.

The plaintiff accepted that he could be described as an "artful dodger" and that some of the things that he had done were "slippery" and indeed "unscrupulous".

In the light of those concessions, which were clearly relevant to partial justification, it did not seem to be of great moment that strictly speaking the jury were not entitled to take some of the same evidence into account in considering whether the damages should be mitigated because of his existing reputation.

During their deliberations the jury returned to court to ask the judge questions about the award of costs.

He replied that they were in his discretion and, unless there was a very good reason to do otherwise, he would order that costs follow the event.

In support of the primary submission attention was drawn to: *Mears v Griffin* (1840) 1 Manning & Granger 961, *Foot v Whincup* (1862) 10 W.R. 732, *Kelly v Sherlock* (1866) LR 1 QB 686 and *Russell v Wainwright* (1868) 15 W.R. 710.

From those authorities it was clear that if a jury found in favour of the plaintiff, the award of costs should decline to answer the question: and that if it appeared that the jury had allowed the incidence of costs to influence their decision, they had not carried out their function properly.

It was therefore argued that the jury's verdict should not be allowed to stand.

It seemed to his Lordship clear from the words of the jury foreman ("We award damages of the smallest coin of the realm") that the majority had no wish to provide the plaintiff with anything other than the minimum award as compensation by way of damages.

But the question remained did the jury allow the question of the incidence of costs to influence their decision? Posing in that form the question seemed to require an affirmative answer. It could therefore be argued that the jury's award should be set aside because they failed to disregard the incidence of costs when reaching their verdict on the quantum of damages.

On closer analysis it seemed to his Lordship that that argument did not avail the plaintiff. From the words used by the foreman it was clear that the jury wished to award the smallest coin of the realm by way of compensation.

It therefore followed that though the jury might well have awarded a somewhat larger sum if they had appreciated that the award of a halfpenny might have an adverse effect on costs, the only reason for increasing the award which they were minded to give as compensation would have been to protect the plaintiff's position on costs.

That would have been an impermissible reason and not one which the plaintiff could pray in aid.

His Lordship therefore came to the conclusion that there was no ground for supposing that the jury would have awarded a larger sum than they did unless they had taken account of an impermissible factor, namely, the possible effect on costs of a minimal or derisory award.

There was no ground for allowing the appeal.

Lord Justice Oliver and Lord Justice Purchas delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: J. S. Sierzant and Co, Chorley; Lovell White and King.

When an enforcement notice takes effect

Dover District Council v. McKean and Another

Before Lord Justice Stephen Brown and Mr Justice Stuart-Smith (Judgment delivered March 7)

Where an appeal against an enforcement notice under section 88 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 had been dismissed by or on behalf of the secretary of state, the enforcement notice took effect from the date of the dismissal; section 88(10), as substituted by the Local Government and Planning (Amendment) Act 1981, did not have the effect of delaying the coming into force of the notice until the time for appealing to the High Court under section 246 of the Act had expired.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, allowing an appeal by way of case stated by Dover District Council against a decision of the Dover Justices on May 30, 1984, to dismiss an information alleging that the defendants, Mr Alfred George McKean and Mrs Eileen Mabel McKean, had failed to comply with an enforcement notice, on the basis that there was no case to answer since the time for complying with the notice had not expired.

Section 88(10) of the 1971 Act, as substituted, provides: "Where an appeal is brought under this section, the enforcement notice shall be of no effect pending the final determination or the withdrawal of the appeal."

Mr Keith Simpson for the council; the defendants took no part in the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE STEPHEN BROWN said that the justices had been referred to a dictum of Mr Justice Bridge in *Garland v Westminster London Borough Council* (1970) 21 P&CR 555, 558.

Section 14 of the Extradition Act 1870, which related to a magistrate's discretion to admit foreign statements taken in third countries, remained unimpaired by article 11 of the extradition treaty between the United Kingdom and West Germany since the only limitation in that article was the denial to the requested state the discretion to refuse to receive in evidence any sworn and authenticated statements taken in Germany.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held on March 7 in a reserved judgment when it refused the application of Alan Rees for, *inter alia*, a declaration that statements or depositions taken in Bolivia were inadmissible in evidence.

Although it had been clearly conceded by counsel in *R v Governor of Pentonville Prison, Ex parte Singh* (Harmohan) ([1981] 1 W.L.R. 1051) that an identical provision in the Neaguen treaty taken in a third state, that of no particular consequence in that case, seemed to have been wrongly made.

and on that basis had concluded that the nine months allowed by the secretary of state for compliance with the notice, on dismissing the defendant's appeal under section 88, had not begun to run until 28 days after the date of the dismissal of the appeal since only then, when the time for appealing to the High Court under section 246 had expired, could it be said that their appeal had been finally determined.

His Lordship was quite satisfied that the council was right in its contention that the justices had misunderstood the dictum in *Garland's* case, which did not deal with the point in issue in this case.

They had not been referred to the decision of the House of Lords in *Griffiths v Secretary of State for the Environment* (1983) AC 511 in which Lord Bridge of Harwich had said: "The opening words of section 88(10) were words of limitation and related only to an appeal under that section: 'final determination' meant the decision of the secretary of state and did not contemplate an appeal under section 246, which conferred an entirely different right of appeal."

The commentary to the contrary effect in the *Encyclopaedia of Town and Country Planning* at paragraph 2066/9 was based on a mistaken reading of *Garland's* case and wrong.

As Mr Justice Bridge had said in *Garland's* case, Parliament had intended there to be certainty as to the date when an enforcement notice took effect, and in his Lordship's judgment that was on the date when the section 88 appeal was dismissed by the decision letter.

Mr Justice Stuart-Smith agreed.

Solicitor: Mr Leslie Cumberland, Deal.

Foreign statements

Regim. v Secretary of State for the Home Office and Another, Ex parte Rees

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LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that in the context of extradition legislation it was not right to treat section 14 as merely an enabling provision. Since article 10 of the treaty envisaged that extradition would take place "according to the laws of the state applied to" there was no reason why such laws should not include the full width of the section 14 discretion.

Although it had been clearly conceded by counsel in *R v Governor of Pentonville Prison, Ex parte Singh* (Harmohan) ([1981] 1 W.L.R. 1051) that an identical provision in the Neaguen treaty taken in a third state, that of no particular consequence in that case, seemed to have been wrongly made.

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SPECTRUM

How Tess floored Victoria

An unusual new floor designed by artist Tess Jaray is being laid at Victoria Station.

Brian Sewell reports on the experiment

"Toughest flooring there is, terrazzo. Bloody good stuff. Marble chips in concrete. Wear for ever." The workman's pride in the material was obvious, and he had the words for it, but he could only express his excitement over the design of the new floor of Victoria Station by walking to one edge and throwing wide his arms — "You see? I couldn't, as it happened, for the floor was misted by a scree of grouting, and I let him get back to the job."

The floor is the work of Tess Jaray, and there is no more unlikely candidate for it. A painter, she has always held the esteem of critics and museum men, without causing much of a ripple on the market or inspiring a glint in the investor's eye. Her most recent commentators found her so formidable that they took to poetry and Henry James instead, but that was an improvement on one worthy of the 1970s who wrote "Jaray's works enter into the consciousness only through the way in which they retreat into a concealed ground" — a prize Pseudos Corner offering. Once you know the keys and the references, the work is no more obscure than a five-speed gearbox, and all that the spectator must do is come to terms with the sensibility behind them.

Tess Jaray lives in a Pooter villa in a Pooter part of London. The friendly clutter of kilims is at variance with the white obliterating chastity of the rest of it: a ginger tom peers in at the front and a black queen at the back; two daughters, one reading English at Oxford, the younger a budding painter at the Central School, are in the offing, but over private matters there seems drawn a parthenic veil.

Jaray was born in Vienna in 1937; within six months she was in England, part of that flood of refugees from a darkening Europe who brought with them new music, new architecture, new painting and new attitudes, and who transformed the intellectual life of England — indeed her great aunt was the venerable dame who ran the old St George's Gallery on what must then have seemed an unwholesome stock of Schiele, Klimt, Klinger and Kokoschka — heady, decorative and erotic stuff that had no counterpart here.

Her early education at a minor public school was intended to suppress her European roots, to render her English. It succeeded, more rather than less, but there is about her still a fine-boned metesome quality that has the uneasy character of a Halcyon heroine; her marriage to the painter Marc Vaux was described in 1965 by John Russell as "the annexation of a very beautiful girl". At 17 she was at the St Martin's School of Art; at 20 she transferred to the Slade, and exhibited with the London Group while still a student there.

Within a year of leaving the Slade her work was included in a German exhibition of new painting in England, and she has not since been out of the international limelight. The Tate Gallery, the Arts and British Councils, and the V & A are among her many British public patrons, and galleries in Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Sweden, Germany, Australia and Holland among those abroad. She now teaches at the Slade, and is as defensive as a lioness of the right of her cub, pupils to make extravagant and undisciplined messes.

Jaray's own work is anything but undisciplined and messy. At a very early stage she took the abstract idioms of the day and distilled them to a matter of tension, edge and plain

colour, the distortion and realignment of a simple conventional image, and optical games that retreated or projected from the surface, depending for this effect on some confusion of messages from the eye. Before she reached 30, Russell could hold her up as an example of "steady sustained development".

Twenty years later that comment still holds, and the work of her maturity is an extension and refinement of her early work, immediately recognizable as its logical development, part of a series that is conscious but not deliberate. The references have always been the same — to the arched roof, fan-vaulting, the elliptical or circular stair, the winding ramp — those aspects of architecture that are neither vertical nor horizontal, but attempt a movement into a fourth dimension. (How essential was the baroque staircase to the aggrandizement of princes!) Recently the references have been more detailed, even more homely — to the patterns of Islamic and Victorian brickwork, to the webs of spiders and the twisting forms of sea-shell and animal horn — and simple mathematical progressions have been introduced.

She claims innumeration, at least in the realms of income tax and shopping, and is disturbed that any spectator should find in her pictures a mathematical deterrent. She sets out to identify a single element on which to base a composition, working on graph paper with HB pencils that must always be sharp and long — she spends almost as much time refining the point as refining the motive. Having found the element from which the complexities will spring — perhaps a simple lozenge — its dimensions will in neighbouring lozenges be extended and distorted by the simplest arithmetical progression, the whole taking on a character that evokes images and ideas.

Drawing is the path to her reservoir of metaphors and recollections: one stage away from doodling, it helps her to organize the ideas retrieved from her unconscious mind. The aim is always evocation, not illustration; if the development of the drawings is too descriptive, they are invariably discarded. She wants her work to be timeless, concerned with those things that have affected men's minds for the past 5,000 years, and as relevant to the past as to the present.

The result is a set of paintings that have no glance life — large though they are, the visitor walking through the gallery at 4 mph simply will not see them: their design grows from some powerful internal belief in the disciplines of contemplation, and their colour from the intuitive judgement of response and relationship.

They demand the same activities from the spectator. Given time, and perhaps access to the source material, comprehension of a multiplicity of simultaneous ideas and sensations grows, and the image takes on the character of likeness, movement, volume, flow, as though it were at once a shoal of fish changing direction, a Romanesque column, a flood of light and the shadow of glazing bars, freezing a moment of change, or winding up a tension. None is merely the tiresome and arid ingenuity of a mathematical recipe; all offer the intellectual comfort of order.

Two years ago Jaray became interested in a project for the redecoration of a station for British Rail. Rightly preferring an incorporated design to an applied solution, she began to study decorative brickwork,



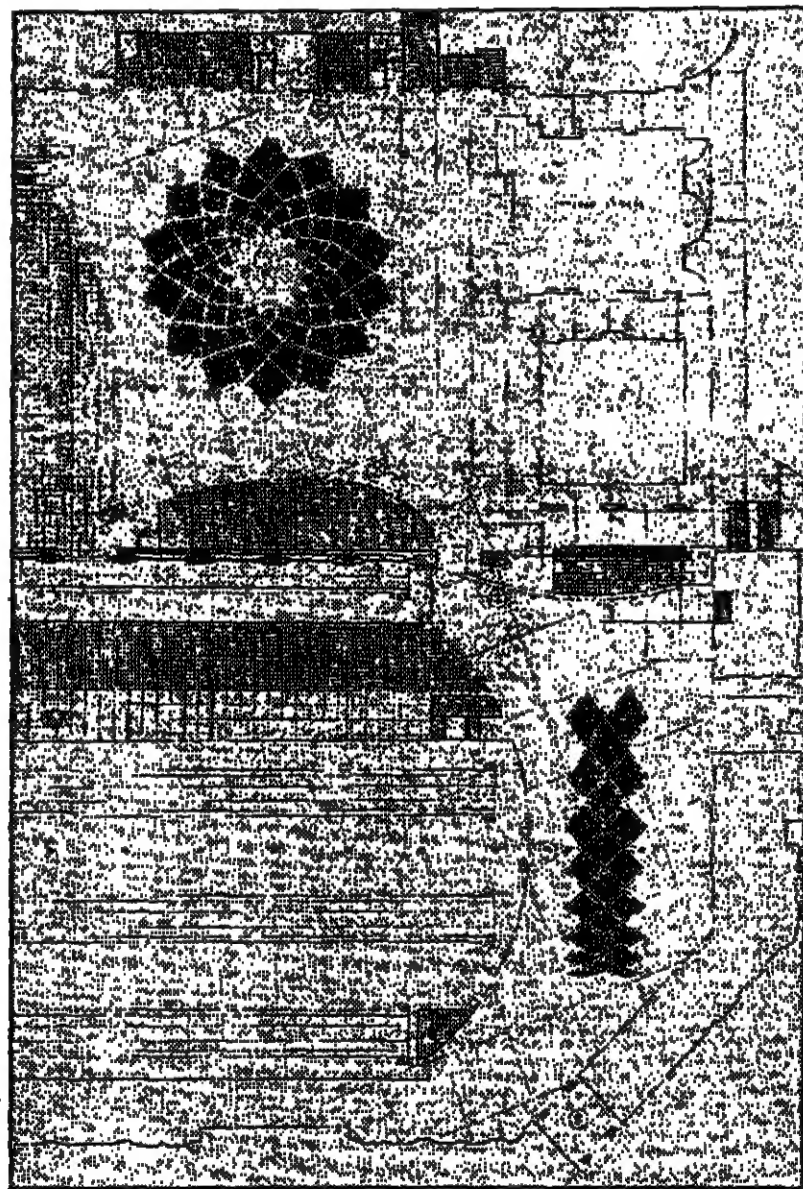
An artist finds her station: Tess Jaray at Victoria which "receives the whole world"

realized that for the whole of her life she had passed by "this miracle" without seeing it, and set out to learn the basic facts of the material's structure and application. Her subsequent drawings for the decoration of station walls and ceilings still stemmed from her paintings, in their tonal transitions as well as in their design, but for the first time they also asserted the texture of the material. She relinquished what she sees as the power of flat colour in favour of essential surface qualities and variations.

When British Rail commissioned her to plan a floor for Victoria Station, it came at precisely the right moment in her career, and she maintains that she could not have completed it without the work of the past 30 years as a foundation. She sought an architectural unity with the building, taking the Victorian brick and stone as her tonal key, and the character of the iron and glass roof as the basis of its shape and proportion.

It is an extended lozenge design, springing from the east, opening and extending to the west as each additional lozenge is broadened by a metre; the colour is natural and organic, warm in the centre, cooling to creamy edges, pitched too high in anticipation of the fading and reduction that are inevitable in use. But it is not a designer's design, and British Rail brave to give the commission to an artist, were even braver to accept an idea that on the ground-plan appears unrelated to its surroundings — perhaps it was the charm of her peep-show model that convinced them.

In the life it is impossible to see it as a whole, and it seems thus to have no rigidity and to exercise no directional control over those who walk on it: all its tempered diagonals are in sympathy with the flow of pedestrians. Tess Jaray thinks of it as a painting on the floor — "Victoria receives the whole world; through the soles of their feet they will feel a little more at ease."



Geometric vision: a drawing showing the floor designs

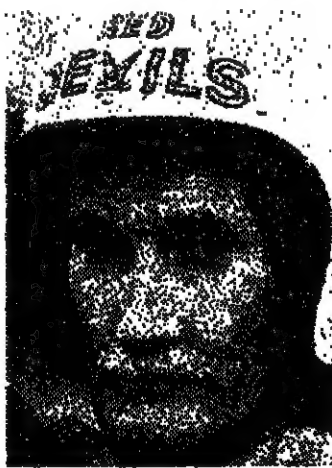
The priest risking his life for children

Aid agencies are not slow to criticize programmes for Third World development drawn up by governments or international bodies like the United Nations. But what they are less ready to accept is that they too may be guilty of some of the same errors.

Now a number of those on the receiving end are beginning to direct their fire at them. One such person is Fr John Thwaytes, a 53-year-old Roman Catholic priest who runs a variety of aid projects round the little town of Mal at the foot of the Himalayas in west Bengal.

It takes a particular kind of courage to bite the hand that feeds you, especially when the food is in short supply. Fr Thwaytes admits to being something of a maverick. But no one has ever accused him of lacking guts, and over the last eight months he has literally risked life and limb in his attempts to raise money in Britain. His main fundraising "gimmick" has been a series of 19 sponsored parachute jumps, culminating in one two weeks ago with the Red Devils at Aldershot, brave enough in itself, but all the more so given that he is partially crippled and had never jumped before.

Fr Thwaytes will return to India at the end of this month with promises of nearly £20,000 for his projects, which include schools, a paramedical service and an integrated rural development scheme. His visit was the first time he has set foot in this country for 18 years. He counts himself somewhat lucky to have survived that long: a horrific road crash 15 years ago put him in hospital for several months and left him with one leg shorter than the other; and in 1973 he nearly died of pneumonia while suffering from malnutrition.



Courage for charity: Fr John Thwaytes prepares to jump

He has now set up a new charity called Child Rescue International. His aim is to bypass the big, established agencies with whom he is more than a little disenchanted.

It is not that he disagrees fundamentally with their philosophy. Like them, he believes aid should be concentrated on the poorest and self help encouraged, and he echoes their complaints that official government aid often actually harms those most in need of help.

He believes that many of them have become overcentralized, excessively bureaucratic and, in some cases, increasingly authoritarian. The result, he says, is that the people on the spot are too often denied the freedom to decide how to spend the money. He also accuses them of not being prepared to support small projects over a long enough period.

He compares aid with running a business, arguing that big agencies too often act simply as

"wholesalers" and that they need smaller projects, to act as the retailers. "We know the people who need help and we know the local problems," he says.

He also criticizes the "glib and sloppy thinking" which he believes lies behind many popular slogans. For example, he says that "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach him to fish and you feed him for life" is misleading and patronizing. "The underlying assumptions are, first, that we know more about fishing than they do, and second, that there is an unlimited supply of fish waiting to be caught if only they knew how. Both are false. What those people need is ownership of the means of production, whether it is fish tanks or land or a handloom. You need more than skills to escape from destitution."

He accepts that the idea of

self-help is attractive to prospective donors and that aid agencies are under pressure to monitor carefully how their money is spent. In other words he concedes that a degree of central control is essential. But he argues that the donor agencies must give the "little man" on the spot more freedom to adapt the "advertized" programmes to local needs — even if the result is fewer donations from a British public where the money is going.

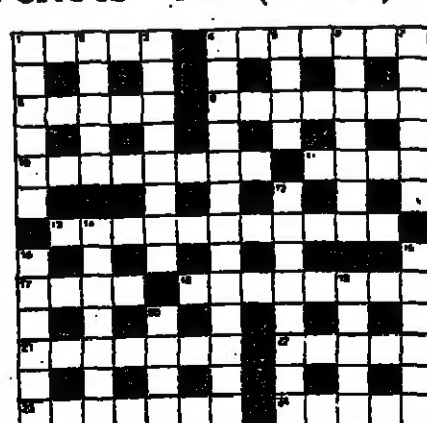
Fr Thwaytes is realistic about how much a small organization like Child Rescue International can achieve. "Often we feel like a forgotten army with too little resources. But when you see the smile on the face of a child you have saved from misery you don't worry about all that."

John Carey

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 597)

- ACROSS
- 1 Astute (5)
 - 2 Body knacker (7)
 - 3 Send payment (5)
 - 4 Delirious utterances (7)
 - 5 Clothes cupboard (8)
 - 6 In same place (4)
 - 7 Domestic organizer (11)
 - 8 Position (4)
 - 9 Discretion (8)
 - 10 Made possible (7)
 - 11 Aquiline bird (5)
 - 12 Pleasure seeker (7)
 - 13 Effeminate (5)

- DOWN
- 1 Astute (6)
 - 2 Ring-tailed primate (5)
 - 3 Mocking parodist (8)
 - 4 Christian Science founder (4,5,4)
 - 5 Rescue (4)
 - 6 Dignify (7)
 - 7 Live (6)
 - 8 Unnecessary (8)
 - 9 Czech city (7)
 - 10 Slumbering (6)
 - 11 Only (6)
 - 12 Port, lemon drink (5)
 - 13 Coarse person (4)



The incredible shrinking screen

Attendance at the cinema has plummeted from a high of 1.635 million a year in 1946 — when almost half the population would visit a cinema in any given week — to a current low of under 55 million a year.

In this week of the Oscars and on the eve of British Film Year it is interesting to ask what went wrong? Were actors and films better than they are? Is the influence of television? Is the product wrong? Were cinemas more comfortable and homes more miserable?

If the film-makers get the product right, the stars become more glittering, the prices fall, the buildings are made more congenial and above all television and video get off the back of the industry, can cinema flourish again?

In our study *The Entertainment Film in British Life* we have examined these assumptions in the light of detailed evidence about the British public's actual, as opposed to imagined, attitudes towards film.

In announcing British Film Year, which begins next month, Sir Richard Attenborough said: "The whole concept of cinema-going and films being part of our leisure activities has somehow got lost." He said that increasing attendances at cinemas by four per cent was only one part of a public "which will hold firm throughout the 1980s and 90s and into the next century".

It is difficult, however, to believe there is anything other than the most marginal possibility of this being substantially achieved. Let's look more closely at some of the assumptions.

The relationship between the rise of television and the decline of the cinema is not as simple as many believe. Over the past few years cinema attendances have fallen by more than a third, and yet television penetration has been over 90 per cent for many years. The fact is that in the 1950s the decline was amongst the young, the group who have never been the most active users of television, and it is unlikely that television has been the cause of cinema's decline to the extent sometimes suggested.

Even at its high point in Britain in the late 1940s the vast majority of people using the cinema were the young urban working class. In 1946, 77 per cent of 16 to 24-year-olds went to the cinema at least once a week. Amongst this group cinema attendance went into massive decline from 1955 onwards. Indeed, from 1955 to 1958 there was a 500 million drop in attendances — a drop that could not be attributed to television since the penetration of sets amongst the urban working class then remained very low.

What replaced cinema among the young was the emergence of a distinctive teenage culture built around music and, crucially, the break-up of the inner city working class areas. The cinema, in effect, lost out to Bill Haley and Elvis. Teenagers

ripping up seats during the showing of *Rock Around The Clock* was more symbolic than anyone could have seen at the time.

Does video have an adverse effect on the cinema? Our findings show that there is more chance of people attending the cinema if they have a video than if they do not. Of those people who went to the cinema last year 42 per cent had a video, which is higher than the national average of 34 per cent.

The price of tickets is also much less important than the industry believes. Our evidence shows that cinema-going might be viewed as an expensive habit but no more so than, say, going to a pub or a disco. An evening at the cinema is, unfortunately, not seen as such a "good buy" nor as entertaining as, for example, the pub even though the latter over the course of a night's drinking will turn out to be considerably more expensive.

Further, those of us who remember days when we would go to the cinema on a date and search out those double seats with no arm rest to come between young lovers, might find it difficult to understand contemporary attitudes. Young men and women in our survey, when asked if they would go to the cinema on their first date, said it would not be in the best interests of getting to know each other.

Cinema is now for nostalgia hunters

What might just have worked in restoring some degree of health to Britain's film industry is the relocation of cinemas. We asked people if they would go to the cinema more often if there was one closer to them. The only group which said yes was the young working class. Had this been understood at an earlier date such a strategy may have stood more of a chance of succeeding.

Our survey — including the hiring of television video films — shows that film-watching remains essentially a regular, communal, working class activity. It is only the place that has changed. The Alhambra has moved to the hearth.

Why is it, then, that some people still do go to the cinema? The most common reasons seem to be a weak sense of social solidarity, flat-sharing and a strong identification with film characters. And the types who go? There is the "film conventionalist" who likes a "simple plot and a star, the 'nostalgia hunter' at a loose end or the 'night out nasser' who tends to be married and likes horror movies.

David Docherty,
David Morrison and
Michael Tracey

*Study funded by Leverhulme Trust. Figures in tables from a national survey commissioned by BFI and conducted by N.O.P. Ltd.

IS THE CINEMA GOOD OR BAD VALUE FOR MONEY COMPARED WITH OTHER ENTERTAINMENTS?

	TOT	SEX		AGE			A8	CLASS		
		MALE	FEM	16-29	30-39	40+		C1	C2	DE
GOOD VALUE	50	49	51	46	56	49	60	49	49	43
BAD VALUE	20	28	30	32	25	28	17	29	29	43
ABOUT THE SAME	18	22	15	20	16	17	18	21	19	12
DK/NO ANS	3	2	4	2	3	5	5	2	3	2

WHICH OF THESE IS THE BEST WAY TO WATCH A FEATURE FILM?

	TOT	AGE					CLASS		DE	BEEN TO CINEMA		VIDEO	
		16-19	20-29	30-39	40+	50+	C1	C2		YES	NO	YES	NO
IN THE CINEMA	31	39	31	21	43	38	27	20	53	22	33	29	
VCR AT HOME	22	31	26	6	14	20	27	24	20	23	40	13	
TV AT HOME	42	26	35	70	36	38	40	50	22	49	22	52	
DK/NO ANS	6	4	9	2	7	4	7	6	5	6	6	6	

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MONDAY PAGE

Love is . . . when your piano comes second

Last night pianist Marguerite Wolff was one of the soloists at the Variety Club of Great Britain's gala concert at the Royal Festival Hall. Here she tells Sally Brompton of her passion for music and the story of her comeback

From the day she was born, Marguerite Wolff's future was clearly mapped out. Her mother, a romantic aesthete with a passionate love of the piano, was determined that her eldest daughter would be a concert pianist.

Marguerite's memories of childhood consist mainly of practising under her mother's critical eye and performing at parties. "My mother was not by any means a cosy person," she admits. "She didn't cuddle a lot. I only think of her as sitting by the piano."

And she recalls being taken to a piano lesson one Easter holiday and wistfully watching some girls walking along the pavement swinging tennis rackets - "that momentary longing to be able to do just ordinary things without having any strains on you, any responsibility . . ."

Fortunately, she possessed the natural talent necessary to complement such insatiable dedication and went on to achieve her mother's own unfulfilled desire for musical excellence. And now, after a lifetime of performing the works of the great composers in the concert halls of the world, she has received the additional accolade of having her biography published, written by Robert Clarkson-Leach, a former pupil and obviously long-time fan.

She is a doll-like woman in her mid-fifties whose life has revolved around her rigid eight hours a day of practice for as long as she can remember. The only serious distraction she ever suffered was when she fell in love with her late husband and for the first time found herself going to the cinema and walking on Hampstead Heath when she should have been practising Tchaikovsky. "Being in love is very detrimental to the piano," she says. "I suppose that's how I

knew I was in love. My piano came second."

She was 21 when she married estate agent Derrick Moss who offered her the steadfast security that her musicianship lacked. "I felt he was tremendously well-earthened," she says. "I felt this sense of balance and safety, somebody to rest my head on in a very feminine fashion. He was fond of music but he hadn't a tremendous knowledge of it - which was a relief."

Initially, perhaps. But after a while Moss began to resent sharing his wife with her Steinway grand. "He hadn't realized what it would be like being married to a musician," Marguerite now admits. "He was very proud of my playing to start with but gradually he wanted me for himself. He loved me to play at home but he didn't like me performing in public."

"I had become extremely organized despite my nature so that I could cook and run the house and still practise without them getting in the way of each other."

"Even so, I think my piano became a more potent rival to my husband than another man would have been. Most men like to think that their woman is consumed with them but when you're a musician there's a part of you that is reserved totally for the performance."

To appease her husband, Marguerite stopped playing in public. By then she had two daughters - Crystal, now 28, and Gloria, 26. But despite the novelty of motherhood, the withdrawal symptoms from being a concert pianist were agonising. "I felt as if I wasn't using myself," she says. "I felt as if there was a gap, a vacuum in my life. It was as if I was living with only 25 per cent of myself. I did resent it - very much."



Key to a love story: Marguerite Wolff at her grand piano

For me, it's all or nothing - I can't dabble. So I just put it aside in my own mind for a while. I always looked upon it as a sort of temporary thing."

Sadly, four years after she stopped playing, her husband died suddenly and unexpectedly of a massive stroke. He left his 35-year-old widow comfortably off and she immediately returned to the piano, wooed back by an invitation from Lady Bliss, wife of the late Sir Arthur Bliss, Master of the Queen's Music, to play at a charity concert.

Marguerite's subsequent friendship with Sir Arthur resulted in her making the first recording of his *Piano Sonata* under his own direction and then performing his works all over the world. The great composer dedicated his *Minute Scherzo* to her.

At a televised performance of his sonata in Malta, Sir Arthur kindly pretended he would be leaving the auditorium before

she began playing so as not to intimidate Marguerite.

In the 20 years since the death of her husband, Marguerite Wolff admits that she has never considered remarrying. "I used to hate the idea of a monastic life but I've never wanted to share my life again - probably because of my love of the piano."

When I married I wanted the lot. I think I was asking too much?

"I do exactly what I want, practise as much as I want, and I don't have to explain to anyone. I do these huge tours and you cannot tour successfully if you're married. I don't think any real marriage can stand a lot of separation."

"When I married, I wanted the lot - a marvellous husband, children, home, my piano, freedom. I think in a way it was asking just too much."

She still studies with the celebrated piano virtuoso Louis Kentner, now 80, whom she addresses as "Maestro", curtsying to him when he enters a room.

Yesterday she was the piano soloist at the Variety Club of Great Britain's gala concert at the Royal Festival Hall, together with soprano Rosalind Plowright, cellist Julian Lloyd Webber and Owain Arwel Hughes conducting the London Symphony Orchestra.

She poured her favourite Blue Mountain coffee in the Louis XV and XVI drawing-room of her pale blue, gold and white Belgrave home. "I call this house a very selfish house", she said. "It's all for me. There's not one room that reflects anyone else's personality other than my own."

"Marguerite Wolff - Adventures of a Concert Pianist, by Robert Clarkson-Leach, is published by Arminique Publishing Company on March 20 at £12.50.

Fresh young fashion gets a traditional touch of class

THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIONS LONDON

London fashion has grown up. The press and buyers who have come to absorb the shock of the new, find themselves applauding regular clothes. The wild creative fringe has pulled in the crowds, pushed fashion boundaries to the limits and produced stunning prints. But young London has also acted as a catalyst for established designers.

Jasper Conran, Paul Costelloe and Betty Jackson all delivered strong collections at the weekend. They took the colour, youth and energy of young London and translated it into clothes that women - and men - will want to wear. Significantly, the good designers show their clothes equally for both sexes.

Jasper Conran's tailoring is now a serious contribution to London fashion and recalls those distant days, before 25-year-old Jasper was thought of, when the English were known for the cut of their clothes and the quality of their cloth. Paisley patterned wools (made in Scotland), brocades and plain wools, lit up with luminous pink collars in vivid pink, were stylish. Tapered and jodhpur trousers and short slim skirts all worked better than the body-moulding knits.

Paul Costelloe delivered an almost faultless collection which earned this modest and serious designer a well-deserved ovation. Costelloe is a fine tailor who uses the tweeds and wools of his native Ireland, now mixing them with velvet, tapestry wool and brocade to give his clothes international panache.

Betty Jackson tells me that she works with Brian Bolger of The Cloth on her prints six months before each collection. This collaboration on print is her strongest card, although she also delivered some good separates based on a big shirt.

Cosy Viyella was printed by Brian Bolger with a bold scribble design that should smother Viyella's nursery image and make it desirable for a new generation.

John McInyre cuts a very good coat, picked the favourite jodhpur trousers and had some strong crevel embroidered furled coats. His muse was Vito Sackville West, and trailing Twenties pearls and furs and a Bloomsbury langour cast a pall over a promising collection. Wendy Dagworthy could show him how to set a pace. Her collection was shown at a gallop on both sexes, bringing colour, print and life to separates.

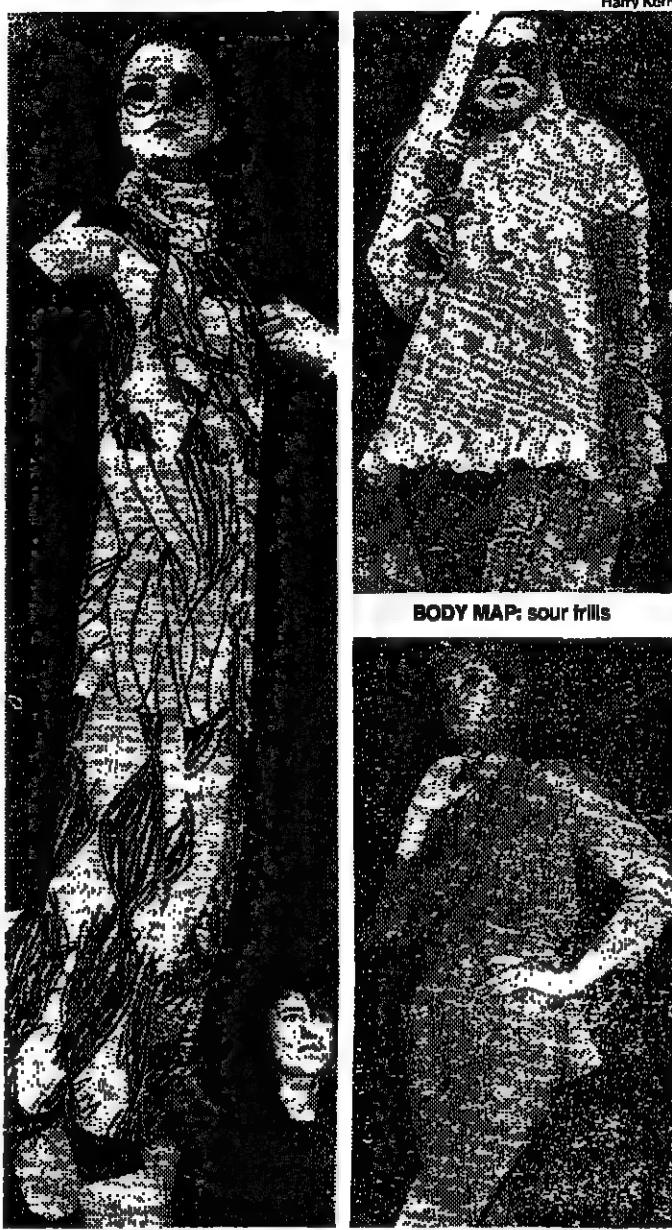
Arabella Pollen surprised me with her well-thought out clothes tailored in an easy, young way. She has some of the shortest skirts in town and a passion for cord and cut velvet. Roland Kleff had pleasing

skirts and a curvy Oxfam Forties jacket that were more significant than the panzy accessories and dim lighting suggested.

The Emanuels are pure romantics who believe in pretty pastel clothes and prints whatever the winter weather. Bill Gibb is a romantic who believes in decoration as an art form. His rainbows of bold mixes of chiffon print won from his admirers the loudest applause.

Body Map gave the English frill a sour twist by making it in lime green Polyester for a man's jacket shirt or whipping it viciously round a crocheted dress. They completed the anti-romantic look with stretch leggings littered with bows down the back of the leg. I like Body Map's idea of taking fashion to its boundaries of taste and shape. But this looked like fashion's yellow brick road.

Suzy Menkes



BETTY JACKSON: strong print

HAMNETT: shapely mini

The successful woman's secret weapon

It seems to be the open season for advising women on how to succeed.

For the third time in as many weeks, a book has landed on my desk on the theme of making it. This latest one shows the back of a foot, seductively clad in a high-heeled scartie patent shoe climbing a ladder. It seems a very unbusiness-like procedure and one very likely to land the owner of the unsuitably-shod foot in the casualty department of a hospital rather than a company boardroom.

Yet the muddled thinking of this book jacket could symbolize the muddled thinking of much professional advice given to aspiring female executives, not the least of which is the dictum that the working woman must set out to be an entirely different creature from the home-based one.

It is not that I agree with people (usually women in top jobs) who think that the occasional display of false modesty is rather endearing) that any woman who can run a home can run British Airways. Have you seen the homes that some women run? They are falling to pieces and so are the inhabitants therein because the housewife/boss can't/won't delegate any of the chores and can't/won't negotiate an acceptable system of household management.

Surveying the hyper-active children fuelled on a diet of



PENNY
PERRICK

junk food, the faulty plumbing and unmade beds, one can't help thinking that had this family been a commercial enterprise it would have gone bankrupt years before.

Nevertheless, this is not to say that women, once they embark on corporate life, have to shuck off their old personas and emerge as something completely different. I disagree with advisers who warn that office life is not family life and so calls for an entirely opposite approach. Office life is remarkably like family life, full of powerplays and backbiting, battles won and lost, relationships that pitch between love and hate. Whether it ought to be another matter entirely. To suggest that woman need

special techniques to cope with work is to make the enterprise seem more frightening than it really is.

In fact, I have noticed that quite a few successful business women are not power-dressed automatons in tailored suits and paisley cravats, but conduct themselves in a manner which can best be described as rather feminine. Of course, they all work hard but they also, and this is no small contribution, make office life cheerier and more pleasant for everyone else and this may be one of the reasons why they have done so well.

The authors of advice books for working women spend far too much time warning you not to betray your gender by putting pot plants on your office windowsill and pictures of your children on your noticeboard. If they were to enter the office of

any male company chairman, I am willing to bet that the first thing to strike their eye would be an expensively framed photograph of the gentleman's wife arising out of drifts of artistically arranged tulle, one hand resting lightly on her expensive pearls.

The main reason for not cluttering up your office space with personal mementoes is not because it gives the impression that you are a daffy lightweight, but because it leaves less room for more essential impedimenta such as paper cups of cold scummy coffee and dog-eared files.

It is about time that a book for working women was written in a style less desperately serious than those currently on offer. I suggest a title for such an enterprise: "You can get to the top if you want to, but if you don't, that's perfectly all right."

Hair-raising but true

Love, as we all know, makes the world go round. Is all you need, like generous wine, ferns and frets until 'tis fine and is of man's life a thing apart.

It is also true that no force can resist it, it is the history of a woman's life, works miracles and cares not what comes after. But did you know that it can make hair, as well as flowers, grow? Neither did Duncan

Goodhew, the Olympic gold medalist swimmer who has been bald since he fell out of a tree when he was a little boy. Since his marriage, Duncan's hair has begun to grow again. I don't know why I am so surprised by this news. Since love can burn, wound, inspire and conquer all, it is surely not that amazing that it can produce curls where none grew before.

Another with burnt fingers is attempting to make a piece of wholemeal toast in a toaster which prefers sliced white bread.

The fellow who had something to do with producing the Metro is struggling to raise the car using the jack supplied with it. See how his knuckles bleed.

That old boy in tears? He has to remove the first biscuit from the packet without breaking it. The person turning a satchet over and over in increasing bewilderment is trying to find out how long to cook the contents and how much water to add to it. They are all objects of abject misery.

I am not listening to their excuses about what the advertising department said, what market research indicated or what the accountant advised. The man who gets my money, gets my kicks and there he shall sit, wined and dined, until he feels as miserable and frustrated as he has made me.

FIRST PERSON

Mary Gaulin

Let me introduce some of my students to you. One is trying to open a box of detergent, another a packet of cat biscuits, others cartons of milk or fruit juice. Their nails break as they try to 'press here', 'push in tab' or 'fold back wings'.

One is wrestling with a pound of dried fruit, or beans, so tightly wrapped that, when he succeeds in tearing the polythene, the package will burst open and shower the contents all over the floor. And he will have to pick them up one by one.

The man with the bleeding finger is trying to remove a plaster from its packet, but he cannot pull the tiny tear off tag with one hand.

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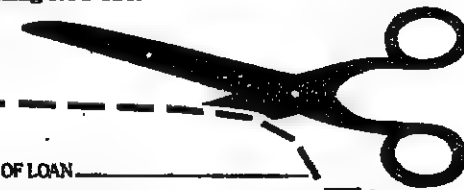
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THE TIMES DIARY

Cabinet stupidity

By a "paralysingly stupid" ruling, the Government has lost the chance to acquire, at less than half price, a George II cabinet, valued at £500,000 on the open market. The cabinet, said to be the most spectacular piece of existing English furniture, was recently offered in lieu of £211,000 of taxes by the beneficiaries of the estate of Arthur Bull, a wealthy collector. They asked that the Government bequeath it to the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. The Treasury refused, saying it could not be accommodated within the £1m budget limit now imposed for art works accepted in lieu of taxes. Now the City of Leeds Art Gallery is trying to buy it for £211,000 from the beneficiaries, who still want it to go to a British museum. The Fitzwilliam is powerless to bid, having drained its resources acquiring a £200,000 Poussin last year. An outraged Michael Jaffe, director of the Fitzwilliam, told me yesterday: "Either the Government is asleep and negligent, or is prepared to wreck what was a good scheme. It is paralysingly stupid and shamefully shortsighted. With a £1m budget, the Treasury will probably never get a painting now. I wrote to Lord Gower but got the usual civil service reply: Jaffe doubts Lord Gower, the Arts Minister, 'has any particular feeling for fine old furniture'. He was never a great art dealer."

Heath's menu

If Mrs Thatcher thinks Edward Heath's venom will dry up when this apparently well-orchestrated outburst is over, she is wrong. Over lunch at the weekend (he likes his lunch: 12 oysters, lobster Thermidor and almond fudge icecream) he told me he will spill every uncensored detail in his memoirs. He is now deciding on the right publisher. His reason for not speaking out on the miners' strike, he said wickedly, was "because I didn't want the Government to be distracted." A few tables away was his security man, Sir Heath, who I am convinced has a good sense of a potential target? "Good God, yes! A few months ago I was speaking in Ohio and there was a massive United Ireland demonstration. I had a peep before I went on and found some Maggie Go Home banners. I had to tell them they got the wrong man." Mrs Thatcher will also be horrified to learn that Heath has been invited to stay with Lady Glover in Switzerland where the PM spends her summers.

● The House of Commons Defence Committee, chaired by Humphrey Atkins, seems determined not to be outshone by the Foreign Affairs Committee, which is under great pressure to have been examining the Belgrano "Crown Jewels". I am told that Atkins's committee, examining the defence and crisis management lessons to be learnt from the Belgrano affair, is about to call for a peep at the papers.



Name game

The intransigence of Deputy Labour Party may paradoxically have saved the skin of its incumbent right-wing MP, John Silkin, who is facing deselection. A few days after the last election Silkin asked for a list of party members, in order, he says, to thank them for their support. Local activists, fearful that Silkin would use the names to appeal directly to the grass roots, refused. Silkin eventually appealed to the party's national executive, which said the list should be handed over. Last week an official from Labour's Walworth Road headquarters was dispatched to a constituency meeting with an ultimatum: give over the names by midnight or face disbandment. The meeting proceeded to spend the whole night chewing over rate-capping and failed even to discuss the list. Does that mean the party may be shut down? "I suppose it does," Silkin said yesterday. If Walworth Road moves in to run the constituency affairs, Silkin will be home and dry.

Exit lines

Guardian readers will search in vain for a review of Joanna Lumley's classical debut in the Dundee Rep production of *Hedda Gabler*, hailed as "excellent" by *The Sunday Times* yesterday. Why? The theatre's director, Robert Robertson, has banned the paper's Scottish drama critic, Joyce McMillan, from darkening his doors. She says the ban followed her review of a "gratuitously violent" thriller last spring. Robertson dates it from her reference to "laughter melting the punk hair-dos" in an audience for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

PHS

A way out of the poverty trap

by Michael Meacher

There is a fundamental flaw at the root of Mr Norman Fowler's social security reviews which will be reflected in the Green or White Paper that the Government is now expected to publish very soon. It is, however, a flaw which could be corrected in the Budget.

No reform in this area can be radical (as Fowler has claimed), let alone the most radical since Beveridge, while it disregards the relationship between benefits and the tax system. For that provides the essential key to solving the whole tangle of problems in the Welfare State.

The reviews may take two courses. One, preferred by the Treasury, is a major public expenditure-cutting exercise which would release several billions of pounds for a series of tax hand-outs leading up to the next election. The other, favoured by the Department of Health and Social Security, is to try to concentrate resources better on those in greatest need.

The irony is that, even if the DHSS wins, the flawed terms of reference will mean that it will in the end be defeated. For if the tax relationship is neglected, the only way that resources can be more closely concentrated on the poor is via an intensification of means-testing and the ensuing poverty trap and an aggravation of the bureaucracy which the whole exercise is allegedly designed to reduce.

There is a third and much better way: to make a reformed and more finely calibrated income tax structure the vehicle for allocating resources according to need. The poverty trap could then be almost eliminated and the scope of means

tests, with all their indignity and inefficiency (because so many entitled do not claim), enormously reduced.

At present 19 out of 20 taxpayers pay income tax at the standard rate of 30 per cent and only 5 per cent pay some of their tax at the higher rates. The income tax system, therefore, so far from being progressive, has become virtually flat-rate. Indeed, in one important sense it has actually become markedly regressive. National Insurance contributions, a tax that now raises nearly half as much as income tax itself, are now payable at the current 9 per cent rate from the very first pounds of earnings once those earnings exceed the extremely low threshold of £34.50 a week. While the burden is thereby maximized at the bottom end of the income scale it is entirely removed at the top end, by a ceiling being placed on payment of these insurance contributions at 1½ times average earnings, i.e. currently at £250 a week.

Suppose this were replaced by a personal tax system built on two principles. One would be an amalgamation of National Insurance contributions and income tax into a single tax system, payable along current income tax lines, with a high tax threshold and no ceiling on liability at the top. There can be no justification for continuing to keep the two taxes separate when the contribution principle (which allegedly protects the National Insurance Fund against Treasury interference) has been breached so often, and indeed their amalgamation would offer considerable administrative and manpower savings.

The second would be to replace the present virtual flat-rate structure by a four-tier or five-tier one, starting say at 15 per cent and rising through 30 per cent and 45 per cent to 60 per cent, or perhaps 75 per cent. In other words, marginal tax rates over the whole of one's earnings, which is what matters in terms of the tax burden, would fall for the majority of taxpayers.

Changes of this kind would dramatically open options for solving entrenched problems. It would permit key benefits such as child benefit and perhaps also housing benefit to be paid at a higher level (though without extra overall net cost to the Exchequer), then taxed back so that benefits received net of tax were graduated according to relative needs.

The potential for this can be gauged from the computer exercise carried out by a sub-committee of the Treasury Select Committee in 1983. Their report, entitled *The Structure of Personal Income Taxation and Income Support*, revealed that, given the amalgamation of income tax and National Insurance contributions and the abolition of the out-dated married man's tax allowance, child benefit, then standing at £5.85 a week, could be increased to £20 a week per child, provided it was taxable on a four-tier tax structure without any increase in cost to the Treasury. There is no more effective way of countering family poverty, minimizing the poverty trap, and providing basic non-means-tested support to single-parent families as a launching pad to independence through employment.

Second, the reform opens up the solution to the crucial problem of resources. There isn't just one welfare state, but three, and the public one is continually drained of resources in order to sustain the two private ones. The whole range of personal tax reliefs and allowances and occupational perks now operate on an enormous scale at the expense of the Exchequer. The right solution in equity would be the amalgamation of cash benefits and specific tax reliefs into a single benefit system with all benefits, whether publicly or privately provided, subject to tax on a common basis.

Third, it helps solve another fundamental defect in the present social security system. Right at the start of 1948 National Insurance benefits for retirement, widowhood, unemployment and sickness were pitched below the national assistance (as supplementary benefit was then called) level, and at every successive uprating they have been kept below that level. If all these National Insurance benefits were now to be raised at least to the appropriate supplementary level, in conjunction with an increased, taxed, child benefit, virtually eight million people could be lifted above the poverty line and the means test virtually eliminated.

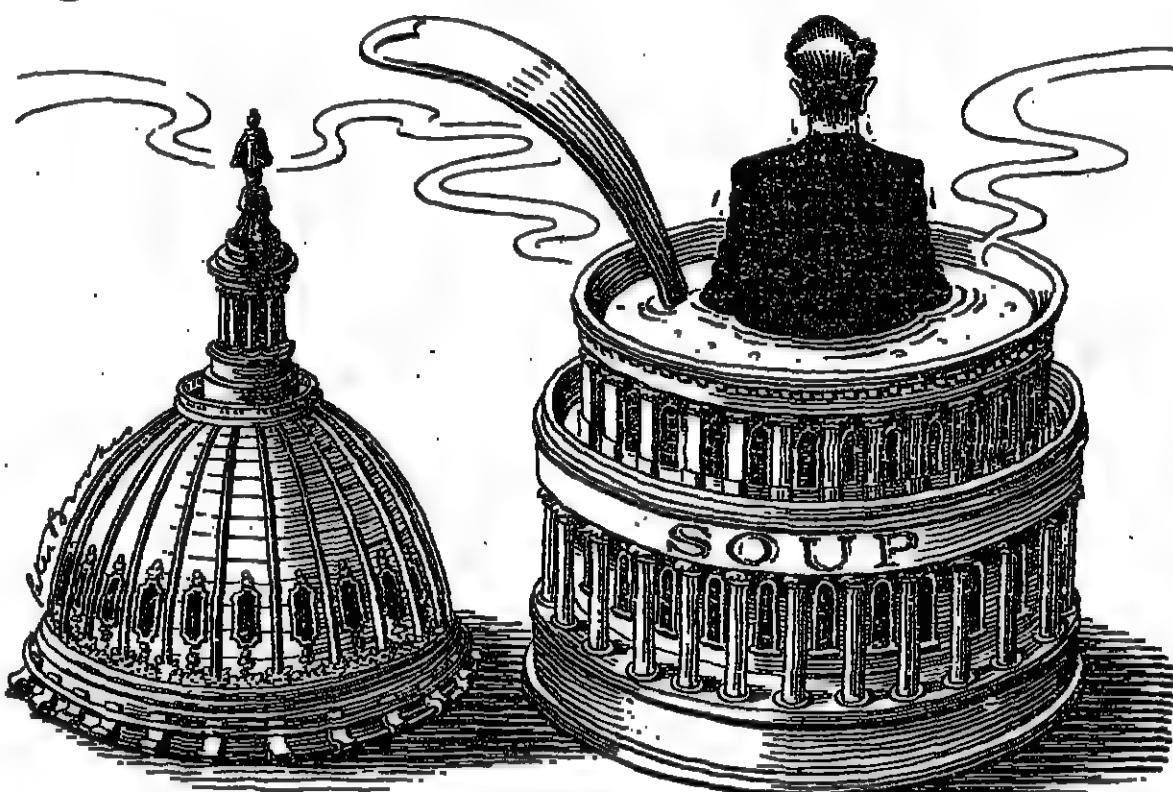
None of these dramatic gains is realizable, however, if benefits are reviewed individually, ignoring the relationship with the tax structure. It is the tragic missed opportunity of the Fowler reviews that both these key requirements have been discounted.

The author is Labour MP for Oldham West and an opposition spokesman on health and social services.

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Why Congress is carving up Reagan's budget plans

Making capital on Capitol Hill



secular humanism is but he said, "I thought it was the price I had to pay to get school desegregation money."

Orrin Hatch, the Utah Republican who fought for the prohibition, said he did it to appease his conservative constituents. The senator's aim was to get rid of text books which "ignore reference to religious and patriotic values". But to many of his constituents, advocates of the religious right, "secular humanism" has a broader definition. It stands for everything they are opposed to, from the United Nations to atheism, sex education, the theory of evolution and the writings of Ernest Hemingway and Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Although such deals are common on Capitol Hill, the process has begun earlier this year for two reasons: a sense of panic among the congressmen and senators up for reelection in 1986, and the low priority Reagan apparently attaches to deficit reduction, illustrated by his failure to build public support for proposed draconian domestic cuts.

The result is a system out of control. The republican-controlled senate budget committee, in its first attempt to write an alternate budget, was in total disarray. Pete Domenici, the beleaguered chairman, convinced members in the interest of reducing the deficit by \$50bn to defy the president by attacking military spending. But when the balancing, non-military spending cuts came up, members balked. Heeding public opinion polls and warnings from activists such as the Gray Panthers, a group of militant pensioners, the committee came to a deadlock over the sensitive issue of cuts in social security benefits. Mr Dan Quale, a Republican from Indiana, first voted for the cuts which Domenici

said were needed to save \$6bn in 1986 alone, and then against them. The pattern was repeated until finally, late in the evening, members decided there was to be no deal.

The committee voted to restore federal railway subsidies Reagan wanted to eliminate. It restored federal funds for student loans, responding to appeals from the National Education Association, and rejected \$300m cuts in Medicaid, the health programme for the poor after Jesse Jackson, the former presidential candidate, said, "Someone has to stand up for the hungry and the poor."

In the end, after weeks of divisive exchanges, Senate Republicans finally produced an alternative budget which was criticized by the White House and by Senate Democrats, who said it broke a campaign promise not to cut social security benefits.

Ultimately, the senator with the most at stake during the legislative free-for-all is Robert Dole of Kansas, the new majority leader. Dole, who has made no secret of his desire to run for president in 1989, was bloodied during the farm battle when he failed to quell the revolt against Reagan. But the toughest fight, the one which will determine his political future, is still before him and the opening skirmish was not promising.

Dole promised boldly, even before Reagan unveiled his new budget, to write an alternate Republican version which goes much further in reducing the massive federal deficit. But he has not been able to deliver, despite political arm-twisting, which angered his colleagues, and extensive talks with the White House. Now all eyes are on Dole, waiting to see if he

is able to defeat the special interest by persuading the full Senate to adopt a substantive deficit-reduction proposal which will set the tone of debate in the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives. If Dole is unable to act on his promise, his reputation as majority leader and as a presidential candidate will suffer. To do so, however, he must regain the confidence of his fellow Republicans and patch up a rift with the White House over defence spending.

Meanwhile, Jim Wright, the Texan who has spent his entire career manoeuvring to be speaker of the House, faces an equally tough battle. Early this year, in an attempt to intimidate all challengers, Wright announced dramatically that he had already lined up the votes among three-quarters of House Democrats to succeed Tip O'Neill when he retires in two years. He tried to sew up the nomination early because of a revolt among young House Democrats, led by Richard Gephardt of Missouri and Tony Cuelo of California, against O'Neill and the entrenched Democratic leadership. The younger members think the older generation, the remaining veterans of the Second World War, is out of touch and therefore responsible for the party's election defeats.

Wright cannot afford a misstep because waiting in the wings is Dan Rostenkowski, a wily politician from Chicago, who holds one of the most powerful positions as chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. He, alone among the Democratic leadership, has refused to support Wright's candidacy. "I am biding my time - it is too early to count the votes," he said.

Bailey Morris

Unicorns and Superior intellects

New words for old, by Philip Howard

Top of the list was the fashionable word of political jargon, in Britain as well as the States, "mandate". Several hundred nominations were received for mandate, not all of them from disappointed Democrats. "There seems to be a general feeling that politicians were using the stronger mandate when less forceful words would suffice."

"Star Wars" gets the thumbs down, as applied to a military defence system in space. Now that the chaps at Lake Superior raise the matter, they are quite right. The phrase is misleading, flash, inaccurate, and pure pop journalism. Wind and Sun-spot. Let us resolve never to use it; not that we were going to. They reject "vertical access device" as jargon for lift or, as they call the foul thing, elevator. And I march with them, unless you can

demonstrate that there are other ways of getting up to the next floor than by lift or staircase. I have this uneasy memory of a new university where there was a perpetual vertical chain which you stepped on and off, and worried about what happened when you got to the top. I think we should call such things lifts.

The Roundheads at Lake Superior are scathing about the dreadful film *Ghostbusters*, and applied to anything that moves, from inflation-busters to crime-busters. Agreed, agreed. Whatever the trendy temptation, let us undertake not to bung-busters on to the end of a word for effect or neophrasia.

The Americans vetoed "bare naked," which is apparently in vogue over there, though it has not yet arrived on this side of the

Atlantic. Let us avoid it. They banned two symbols as boring: hearts meaning love, and the international road sign of a circle with a line through it meaning "no." "Significant writedown" was objected to as pretentious euphemism for a big loss. Let us agree not to say or write that NASA shuttle pilots "visually eyeball the runway". "Near miss" ought to be "near hit", it actually missed, but nearly hit. "Up to speed" is apparently a phrase running rampant in American government. Let us avoid it whatever it means. And "read" as in "this book is a good read" is clearly becoming tiresome jargon over here as well.

Anyone with any sensitivity for language will eschew most of these anyway. But hats off to Lake Superior for doing what we should all do more often, shouting out that the linguistic Emperor has no clothes.

Anne Sofer

Why don't these rebels resign?

Last week I wrote from the County Hall battlefield as the Great Budget Debate surged around me. Now, as the smoke clears and the wounded tend their bruised limbs, it is possible to make a cooler assessment of where we are in the propaganda war between central and local government.

There would appear to be no doubt as to who has lost this round. The left has been made to look extremely foolish: by making a farce of the "stop or rot" theatre that was supposed to be the culmination of the campaign against rate-capping, they have made all those millions spent on advertising look like so much wasteful, abortive spending. The fiasco will undoubtedly also damage the concurrent campaign to save the GLC.

On the other hand all sorts of people are claiming the victory. Our Alliance group of three, for instance, derive considerable satisfaction from the fact that the GLC budget as finally agreed is pretty close to the one we proposed at the beginning of the proceedings. We could all have gone home instead of spending the weekend at County Hall, and been spared all the fuss.

The Conservative group on the GLC are understandably in high spirits, publicly over the humiliation of Ken Livingstone, privately at having proved themselves far more adept at trouncing the left than their counterparts across the river (with whom they are not on the best of terms).

It is even claimed that the result is a "victory for the right" within the Labour Party. Neil Kinnock and John Cunningham are said to be "quietly satisfied" - as if in some way the forces of rationality within their divided party asserted themselves in the end.

Shamefully equivocal

This is of course rubbish. On both the GLC and the ILEA it was only a "victory for the right" to the extent that a minority of Labour members broke ranks and voted with the Conservatives and the Alliance. Doing so meant voting against the Labour Party conference policy of "noncompliance" - a policy with which most of them disagreed, but on which Neil Kinnock and John Cunningham have throughout been shamefully equivocal. If there is any lesson from the whole affair for the Labour Party leadership it is that the only way Labour councillors can take sane and legal decisions is to ditch party policy and vote with the opposition. But that is probably not a message they want to hear.

The strangest aspect of the aftermath is the fact that all those whose proposals so spectacularly failed to attract majority support are still very much in control. In the Inner London Education Authority, all but two of the ILEA front bench voted consistently and repeatedly, during our interminable proceedings, to raise no money at all for their authority in the next financial year.

Much has been made of the personal and financial implications

for individual policies (though only if they are passed): surcharge, bankruptcy, disqualification - all thoroughly scary stuff that feeds the natural *schadenfreude* of journalists. Much less attention has been given to the consequences for others. These were bluntly spelt out to members by the director-general of the GLC. If we failed to agree any rate precept, he warned us, "Wide-spread disruption of services, administrative and financial chaos would occur and would be particularly damaging to the lives of those who rely directly or indirectly upon the council's services and those who serve the council."

"This damage would be visited upon boroughs and all other bodies dependent on the flow of rate income. ... No Londoner, London business or London ratepayer would escape the consequences. Any belief that damage could be avoided or that the damage would be minimal until the Government stepped in is a grossness and fanciful. The disruptive consequences upon services, staff and creditors ... would commence immediately and be of immediate impact."

Incredible nightmare

I find it incredible - a nightmare no one would have believed possible only a few years ago - that the fate of inner London's 300,000 children, let alone its teachers and older students, rests in the hands of people who, knowingly and after having received this advice from someone who is acknowledged by all parties to be the foremost local government servant in the land, persist in voting for the situation he describes.

And why, when their belief in anarchy has failed to command support, do they not resign? True revolutionaries, when they have failed, are exiled or shot, are not permitted to return to their comfortable official quarters and carry on the administration.

Yet this is what is now apparently going to happen. Frances Morrell, leader of the ILEA, is returning to administer a Tory budget! But comrades, have no fear: it will be administered in a thoroughly revolutionary way. According to the *Times Educational Supplement*: "Mrs Morrell compared the ILEA to 'an aeroplane setting out to fly the Atlantic with two pints less petrol than we need for the journey'. No thought, of course, of changing course or shedding weight: crash we will, and crash we must, to prove a political point. And those with children on board will presumably be expected to show solidarity with the kamikaze pilot."

I now frankly confess: I have misled you. I opened this column with a promise of a "cool assessment". It is not cool at all. When I think of the callousness, the irresponsibility and the cynicism of those whom the Labour Party allows to remain in charge at County Hall my blood boils.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

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moreover... Miles Kington

Rites and wrongs of spring

The return of cold snowy weather at the weekend means only one thing to the expert and that is that spring is here at last. Yes, the official beginning of spring takes place this week, in a small private ceremony attended only by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and a few goblins, and thereafter winter will officially be over, leading to blizzards, blocked roads and Radio 4 programmes being interrupted by incomprehensible gale warnings.

Preliminary rejoicing has already broken out with the simultaneous arrival of St Patrick's Day and Mothering Sunday, the time of year at which many Irish mothers give thanks all day to the little-known mother of St Patrick for getting their boys safely back from Cheltenham where they had been wandering round the pubs ever since Thursday, unless they made it to Cardiff for the international.

But for those of you who are worried about the onset of spring - perhaps because you have always been out of the country before when it happened, or simply can't remember what happened last time, because you were trying to beat the Budget with your intake of whisky - here are a few simple guidelines to spring, and what to do about it.

● The first cuckoo of spring. Do not write to *The Times* about this, as your letter will not be printed. *The Times*, like most newspapers, is keen to be thought of as progressive and is already branching off into other areas of nature; you may have noticed last week's unexpected correspondence on the first cuckoo of spring. Things you might like to write to *The Times* about, in the interests of scientific observation, are the first spring onion, first spring greens, first accusations of drug-taking in the Boat Race, first request of the new season for the return of the Elgin Marbles and so on. Our own personal tip, based on last year's trends, is that your best chance would be a letter reporting the first cricket hooligan of the year.

● Now is the time to clear up round the estate, getting rid of all those unwanted rusty cars, abandoned Sinclair C5s, dead VAT inspectors, dud cruise missiles and other things which may have been

dumped over the ancestral perimeter wall during the dark days of winter. Have your family or friends cleaned now before the Easter influx of visitors: it is normal to put up at least one for sale about now, so that it can be rescued at enormous expense by the nation. If you have a safari park, make sure all the animals have shed their winter coats - respray if necessary. And get rid of those unsightly dead leaves on your parkland trees, perhaps by hovering low over them in your private helicopter and blowing them off.

● If you're planning to make a film or TV series about Scott of the Antarctic, it is now probably too late to shoot it in Scotland, as the parts of Scotland that are flat enough to look like polar wastes will no longer have enough snow left to look realistic. I would advise you either to move your location to Canada or to rename the film *Scott of Aberdeenshire or Captain Oates is Alive and Well and Entering the Outskirts of Dundee*.

● Those of you who prefer the more elaborate kind of April Fool joke should start your planning immediately, especially if it involves explosives, inflatable replicas of Mrs Thatcher, squads of resting actors dressed up as policemen, a lookalike, the planting of Wembley football pitch with tiny cannabis seedlings, the swapping round of exit signs on a motorway or the kidnapping of the Bishop of Durham followed by an announcement that there is no proof he ever existed. These things take time and the bringing of many public officials.

● Finally, newspaper editors at this time of year begin to feel fussy and liable to splash out large sums of money on projects which at other times of the year they would scold. For example, why not call down rain at your local Sunday supplement with a plausible but madcap scheme? Perhaps I am trying my luck with a project to get the General Belgrano raised from the seabed to see which way it was facing.

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صلى الله عليه وسلم



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

HOWE'S UDI FROM SDI

The Foreign Secretary's speech on SDI (the Strategic Defence Initiative) on Friday may have done untold damage to the cohesion of the Atlantic Alliance at a critical juncture of renewed east-west negotiations. It has already caused astonishment and pained reaction in the inner circle of the American administration which had hoped for some Alliance solidarity on SDI and had assumed, on the basis of Mrs Thatcher's speech to the joint session of Congress, that they would get it. The Prime Minister's endorsement of research, even though qualified by the Four Points established at Camp David before Christmas, seemed to indicate a readiness to accede to the positive and necessary elements of SDI such as its strategic philosophy and technical potential. All that has now been undermined by Sir Geoffrey's speech.

It was mealy-mouthed, muddled in conception, negative, Luddite, ill-informed and, in effect if not intention, a "wrecking amendment" to the whole plan. In the circumstances of Geneva it might more appropriately be described as "the Gorbachov amendment". Sir Geoffrey has handed Mr Gorbachov all the best lines with which to oppose SDI and drive that wedge between Europe and America which the Foreign Secretary proudly warns us about in his last paragraph.

Whatever they may say in public, the Americans in private are not amused. Nor are they inclined to regard Sir Geoffrey's intervention simply as a familiar exercise in which the foreign office, like their own state department, makes emollient noises which are at variance with the chief executive authority in Downing Street or the White House. Mrs Thatcher's conversations in Moscow have not gone down well in Washington since she claims to have told Mr Gorbachov what President Reagan means by his approach to SDI. If Washington wants President Reagan's words to be interpreted to Mr Gorbachov, Washington needs no intermediary, even one of Mrs Thatcher's standing.

Her tendency to cast herself in the role of bridge-builder surfaced momentarily after the trip to Hungary but since then has subsided until Mr Gorbachov's arrival in London last December. Clearly his accession to the highest office has turned too many heads in London. There is always a latent tendency in Britain to pose as a bridge-builder, and now that Mr Gorbachov is in the saddle, there may be an official temptation to believe that the British Government has an inside track with the new Soviet leader, which should be exploited. In the circumstances of Geneva, and the arguments now opened up by Sir Geoffrey's speech, it seems that it will be Mr Gorbachov who will do the exploiting.

Sir Geoffrey's theme seems to be based on the idea that deterrence is an end in itself when of course it is not. It is a means to an end. That end is the prevention of all kinds of war, nuclear and otherwise. Sir Geoffrey's devotion to that technique

of deterrence called MAD (Mutual Assured Destruction) - on which, during the absence of any technical defence against incoming missiles, we have had to rely solely - has been elevated into an almost Luddite hostility to the idea of change even when the technology appears to be changing and the philosophy is losing its credibility in public opinion.

Moreover, the speech seems to reveal an ignorance about Soviet theory and practice which is most disturbing. For a start the Soviet Union has never accepted MAD as a stable system of mutual deterrence. It has worked strenuously to build up proper defences against a nuclear retaliation with an enormous civil defence effort and with research and development into missile defences which goes far beyond anything suggested in Sir Geoffrey's speech (nine lines in 27 pages). That work constitutes a blatant violation of the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty which Sir Geoffrey virtually ignores, while lecturing the United States repeatedly on its need to comply with the treaty.

He says that "rather than die by the nuclear sword we have lived by the shield of deterrence", when in fact MAD epitomizes the posture of a man who has no shield but simply a sword with which to retaliate.

He refers to a stable system of deterrence when the history of détente shows that strategic stability is not attainable, nor should one expect it to be so given the basic philosophy of Soviet strategy which, whatever Soviet leaders say to the west, has remained unchanged in its determination to smash the democratic system wherever and whenever it can. That is why Sir Geoffrey's hopes of negotiation on the basis of mutual confidence and goodwill once again springs from a dangerous misunderstanding both of Soviet intentions and of the purpose of negotiation. It there was goodwill there would be no negotiation. We would not both be armed to the teeth against each other. We cannot expect to achieve anything by negotiation with the Soviet Union unless we recognize that it is and always will be conducted against a background of illwill born of the incompatibility of the two systems - liberal democracy and Marxist-Leninism dedicated to the former's destruction.

In his hostile attitude to the prospects of replacing defence based on retaliation with a defensive system based on protection, Sir Geoffrey resembles a man who would prefer not to have a lock on his front door but instead to rely solely on a shotgun fixed up and targeted on the garden gate, triggered to go off only after his house had been burgled or burnt down, but not before.

There are dark warnings against going down the defensive road of SDI and a litany of technical questions which are all designed to cast doubt on the feasibility of the project. He warns against the likelihood that it would be "only a limited defence". Can he honestly claim that MAD provides an unlimited defence at present, when we have witnessed the Soviet Union take

advantage of the high nuclear threshold to carry out so many armed encroachments on the world around us which certainly undermine our total defensive position?

A more serious aspect of Sir Geoffrey's speech is that its approach to the technicalities of SDI and the Luddite language which he deploys completely ignores the range of technical briefings and assurance given to the Prime Minister in two sessions with President Reagan and his technical advisers, and another long briefing on the full potentialities of the system given by Mr McFarlane and General Abrahamson in London on January 9, fresh from Geneva. Either there has been no contact between the Prime Minister and her Foreign Secretary or, more likely, a political decision has been taken in the week of Geneva and in the wake of the Moscow visit to distance Her Majesty's Government decisively from the position of the Reagan Administration. What is the purpose of such a decision, unless it is to attempt to give Europe a distinctive argument against SDI, with particular reference to West Germany? The West German position, and its attitude to the whole question of SDI and the transfer of high level technology, will be explored in detail tomorrow, but the consequence of such a developing European posture could well be disastrous to Alliance solidarity during this period of east-west negotiation.

The SDI now threatens to become the focus of one of the most serious rifts in the Atlantic Alliance since its inception. Of course the disharmonies, discrepancies and imbalances of scale and responsibility have been with us for 37 years. They surface intermittently during periods of contention over force levels, nuclear planning, east-west trade, the Soviet gas pipeline and many others, but the SDI brings many of these differences together in a new and dramatic form at a time when a new isolationism is afoot in the United States with its economy and technology fast outpacing Europe to a point where, unless we are careful, impatience in the United States and resentment in Europe at this emerging gap could lead to further disillusionment and disarray. That prospect must be avoided by more prudent diplomacy on both sides of the Atlantic.

That Sir Geoffrey's speech could have been given at this time and in those terms is a failure of foreign policy in the state department for not getting across to Europe the message of the SDI. It is also a failure of understanding in London. At such a time, with the Geneva talks beginning and Mr Gorbachov poised to exploit the historic Soviet aim of decoupling Europe from America, it is indeed astonishing that the British Government chooses this moment to be so negative about what ministers know is the core of the Reagan administration's strategic philosophy. It cannot be by chance. It must be a political act whose consequences, if they are only half as damaging as they now appear, could well go down in history as one of the most ill-fated British decisions since the era of appeasement. This time the British may have Germany on their side: but the menace of the dictatorship we confront is the same.

Denial of fanaticism
From Mr Tom Scott
Sir, Bernard Levin (March 14) succeeds that my statement about an infant's school, which resulted in a libel case, was based on an inaccurate official report. He apologises for suggesting that I invented the story.
Given that my error was, contrary to Mr Levin's original assertions, a genuine and understandable one, his whole case - that I am a "single issue fanatic" - crumbles. Indeed it is Mr Levin himself who displays the features of the "fanatic" he reviles. Take his ludicrous "certainty about the mental processes of a man I have never met" (nor, I would point out, even telephoned). This "certainty" is based, it transpires, partly on a photograph of me which, Mr Levin asserts, shows that I have a "little pursed mouth". The photograph in question was taken while I was waiting for the verdict so it is hardly surprising if I looked tense.
Of course, the "single issue fanatic", according to Mr Levin, operates with "growing extremism, now including serious violence". Mr Levin's difficulty is that in my case he is forced to admit: "Mr Scott has not resorted to violence". Undermined by that fact, Mr Levin suggests "it may not be long before some of his even more enthusiastic colleagues start throwing bricks through the windows of those who disagree with them". What an illogical and fanatical argument!
STOPP does not consist of fanatics. We are humane citizens who believe that "corporal punishment" in schools should be abolished because it is immoral, damaging and counter-productive.
Yours sincerely,
TOM SCOTT, Education Secretary, Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment, 18 Victoria Park Square, Bethnal Green, E2, March 16.

WHERE PEACE IS NOT WELCOME
The Iran-Iraq war has suddenly sprung to life again in the last fortnight - though the metaphor is hardly an appropriate one for events which have instead brought death to thousands of human beings: civilians killed in air-raids, mainly on Iranian cities, and, since last Monday, soldiers of both sides battling for control of the highway that runs north from Basra towards Baghdad along the western bank of the Tigris.
It was in the marshes on the opposite bank that Iran launched its last offensive just over a year ago, catching the Iraqis by surprise with a daring amphibious operation. Iraq was able to contain that offensive and regain some of the ground lost partly by resorting to the use of chemical weapons.
Since then, a new, much larger-scale Iranian offensive has been constantly predicted. After a time, its failure to materialise seemed to indicate a faltering of Iranian nerve: a reluctance to sacrifice further tens of thousands of Iranian young men and teenagers in "human waves" doomed to break against superior Iraqi firepower - conventional as well as chemical. On the Iraqi side, morale began to improve correspondingly. Yet

while Iran's leaders may have been content to let the war tick over but adamantly refused to bring it to an end so long as the aggressor, President Saddam Husain, was still in power in Iraq, Iraq's main war aim has become precisely to force Iran to negotiate, if necessary by escalating the fighting. Thus although Iraq's terms for actual peace seem much more reasonable than Iran's, Iran has tended to appear more reasonable in responding to more limited initiatives for de-escalating the war and reducing the damage it does while it goes on, whether to civilians or to neutral shipping.

Thus there is not much doubt that it was Iraq which initiated the current exchange of missile and air attacks on cities, breaking an agreement reached through UN good offices last year. Although Iran has been able to do some damage by shelling Basra, and also apparently by hit parts of Baghdad with ground-to-ground missiles, Iraq's air superiority has enabled it to inflict far greater casualties by bombing a large number of Iranian cities including Tehran. It is a moot point whether this was done in order to disrupt final Iranian preparations for the ground offensive, or actually to provoke that offensive, which

A peaceful future for Namibia

From Mr Nicholas R. Winterton, MP for Macclesfield (Conservative) and Mr Michael Brown, MP for Brigg and Cleethorpes (Conservative)
Sir, The long letter from the Bishop of Stepney and Mr Terry Waite (March 8) claims that our parliamentary delegation's report on our visit to Namibia was misleading.

Our delegation, unlike any previous one, had the benefit of detailed and frank discussions with all the conflicting elements inside Namibia - SWAPO's political wing, the Churches' own representatives, including Bishop James Kauluma, and every main Christian denomination, the Administrator-General, the military and, importantly, representatives of the Multi-Party Conference who are currently trying to hammer out an agreement that would allow peace-loving Namibians to settle their future for themselves, free of South Africa, the United Nations or SWAPO's military wing.

We reported what we saw in Namibia. We travelled widely and met a full cross-section of people.

We did not say that we "were impressed by the Anglican Church in Namibia's apparent commitment to SWAPO": what we actually said was that we "were surprised by the Anglican Church in Namibia's apparent commitment to SWAPO".

It was made clear to us by Christian Namibians that much of what SWAPO does in Northern Namibia is violent and the Church cannot justify SWAPO's post office bomb in Oshakati on December 31, 1984, which killed four people.

It is quite extraordinary for the Bishop of Stepney and Mr Waite to state, without any evidence, that SWAPO has the support of the vast majority of the people in Namibia, albeit it confirms their personal opinion. It is not true that in the only national elections held in Namibia a substantial majority of the vote cast was for the DTA (Democratic Turnhalle Alliance) - SWAPO refusing to take part in the elections.

Finally, to state that we are undermining resolution 435 is a misrepresentation of our position. We accept UNSC 435 as a basis for independence, but we do not consider that the Western proposals for the detailed implementation of 435 are immutable as the proposals have been revised in negotiations since 1978. We consider that it may be necessary to go further "to move the furniture around", as it were.

Many Namibians, for instance, believe that it is now essential to agree a constitution prior to any free and fair elections being held. Only in this way can the rights of the smaller tribes and political parties be guaranteed; this protection is crucial.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS R. WINTERTON,
MICHAEL BROWN,
House of Commons,
March 13.

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Given that my error was, contrary to Mr Levin's original assertions, a genuine and understandable one, his whole case - that I am a "single issue fanatic" - crumbles. Indeed it is Mr Levin himself who displays the features of the "fanatic" he reviles. Take his ludicrous "certainty about the mental processes of a man I have never met" (nor, I would point out, even telephoned). This "certainty" is based, it transpires, partly on a photograph of me which, Mr Levin asserts, shows that I have a "little pursed mouth". The photograph in question was taken while I was waiting for the verdict so it is hardly surprising if I looked tense.

Of course, the "single issue fanatic", according to Mr Levin, operates with "growing extremism, now including serious violence". Mr Levin's difficulty is that in my case he is forced to admit: "Mr Scott has not resorted to violence". Undermined by that fact, Mr Levin suggests "it may not be long before some of his even more enthusiastic colleagues start throwing bricks through the windows of those who disagree with them". What an illogical and fanatical argument!

STOPP does not consist of fanatics. We are humane citizens who believe that "corporal punishment" in schools should be abolished because it is immoral, damaging and counter-productive.
Yours sincerely,
TOM SCOTT, Education Secretary, Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment, 18 Victoria Park Square, Bethnal Green, E2, March 16.

Travelling together
From Sir Samuel Goldman
Sir, It is right that the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, or the two Alliance leaders should travel together on the same aircraft (report, March 13). Of course air travel is very safe these days, but we do have accidents.

It is no doubt economical, and if one thinks hard enough a case can be made out for it on party grounds. But it is surely not in the national interest that the top political leadership of this country should risk being eliminated at one fell swoop.

Yours faithfully,
S. GOLDMAN,
White Gate,
Church Lane,
Haslemere,
Surrey,
March 13.

Distinctive shackle on high-flyers?

From Mr J. P. Toomey

Sir, Dr Jones (March 13) is right to draw attention to the proposal for a distinction certificate in the new GCSE examination. Since this will be, from 1988, the only examination available at 16+ for every boy and girl in the country, it is important to measure the impact of such a proposal.

The majority of maintained schools have an option system in their fourth and fifth years which permits a choice of five subjects in addition to English (two subjects) and mathematics, making eight subjects in all. Certainly high schools where pupils begin at 13 (as this school) would find it difficult to fit in more.

Since a pupil must, on the proposal, take a language, a science, either history or geography, and an art/craft subject there is room for only one more to complete the five. Good linguists will probably opt for a second language, good scientists for a second science, but it will be impossible to take a third language or a third science if one is aiming for a distinction certificate. This must militate against many able pupils, however one may regard the general educational merits of as wide a curriculum as possible.

The universities may feel that schools will continue to give appropriate advice to these pupils, discounting the distinction certificate. But there will be pressures which may not be easy to resist, and in the end this circumscription of the curriculum may have presumably unintended effects on the

preparation of able pupils for higher education.

Yours faithfully,
J. P. TOOMEY,
(Acting Headmaster),
North Bromsgrove High School,
School Drive, Stratford Road,
Bromsgrove, Worcestershire,
March 13.

From Mr Arthur R. Munday

Sir, I was pleased to see in today's letters (March 13) in your columns that Dr P. V. Jones has exposed to public view the proposed new distinction certificates which are secretly being hatched in the corridors of power by the DES. As former Headmaster of The King's School, Chesham, I welcome the introduction of a distinction certificate in the GCSE, but I am most concerned that the list of subjects makes it impossible for any boy or girl to study both Latin and Greek at this level.

Those who choose to do two modern languages cannot take "classical subjects" - whatever that is intended to mean. If this goes through as it stands, not only will there be no future classicists in our university classical departments and schools but there will be no modern linguists with any knowledge of Latin or Greek or "classical subjects".

I am afraid that Sir Keith Joseph "has escaped his own notice" in dealing the final death blow to the classics in education. O tempora, o mores!

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR R. MUNDAY,
10 Manor Court, Pinehurst,
Grange Road, Cambridge.

Comfort and discomfort

From Mrs Jane Bolton

Sir, Viciousness is sometimes a mask behind which pangs of pricking conscience can hide. Could it be so with those who object to Dr Runcie's observations in St Paul's Cathedral last week (report, March 8)?

The question seems to be: "How dare the Archbishop of Canterbury stand up in front of a 'comfortable Britain' congregation and mention that unmentionable blot on the landscape, the 'other Britain' - and, equate it with Ethiopia?"

Mother Teresa, of Calcutta, would know the answer. In her eyes the "poorest of the poor" are not only those starving to death, famine-struck on the streets of Calcutta, the plains of Ethiopia or wherever, but the poor of the poor are also those who are starved of love, or care, of anyone who is concerned about whether they live or die; those who are isolated in total loneliness, burdened with worry, broken by despair.

On that premise, in our inner cities therefore, people are dying from another kind of starvation; another kind of dying. They are starved of work, a livelihood, dignity, self-esteem, starved of money over and above the bare essentials of just living: rent, fuel, food, second-hand clothes, struggling to keep going day after day after day. This death is a sort of mental disintegration as the unending monotony of the struggle slowly breaks the spirit.

Violence breeding from such hopelessness distorts and deforms the minds of people committing reprehensible crimes, making them hideous, hated and feared. Love does not exist here because it has been spurned, stifled and annihilated in the quest for "something better".

The "other Britain" will not disappear just because churchmen pretend it does not exist. Not everyone resents Dr Runcie's raising the subject. Many will thank him for mentioning it.

Yours,
JANE BOLTON,
219 Westcombe Hill,
Bath, SE3,
March 12.

Taxing the nest-egg

From Mr R. J. Neelands

Sir, I am a pensioner whose former employers are amongst the many responsible firms in the private sector who make annual reviews of pensions in payment and consequent ex gratia increases in them. I was somewhat concerned therefore to read your leader of March 8 wherein adverse changes in taxation were advocated.

It should be borne in mind that taxpayers and consumers at large are much burdened by the privileged indexation afforded to the public

sector in general and the Civil Service in particular. Very few employers' pension schemes can afford even now to match the public sector's indexation.

It is right that the private sector should be yet further disadvantaged by changes in taxation which will affect the ability and willingness of employers to assist their pensioners in alleviating the effects of inflation.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. NEELANDS,
Little Wards,
Wardrobe Lane,
Princes Risborough,
Buckinghamshire,
March 9.

Audit availability

From the Chairman of the North Essex Health Authority

Sir, Your Social Services Correspondent's article on Monday, March 11, regarding abuse of the National Health Service by consultants contained allegations by Mr Meacher about North Essex Health Authority. These are unfounded.

We had correspondence with Mr Meacher in February of this year and sent him a copy of the DHSS audit report on our collection arrangements. Whilst our systems needed improving there was no suggestion whatsoever of abuse by our consultants or that we had failed to collect payments by private patients.

It is quite right and proper that such audit reports are made available to the public, but it is equally important not to draw the wrong conclusions. Mr Meacher unfortunately has done so.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN MINTER, Chairman,
North Essex Health Authority,
Health Office,
Turner Road,
Colchester,
Essex,
March 12.

Fairer play

From Mr Brian Stokes

Sir, May I take issue with your correspondent, Mr Hugh Green (March 12) and his support for the suspended Sunderland footballer? One of the reasons for the present state of soccer is bad behaviour on the field. I attend a football match almost every Saturday, and I am appalled at the amount of cheating and rough play that escapes punishment.

I believe that players who use intimidatory violence should be suspended for much longer periods than at present, alas, the quality and courage of referees are variable, which means that some players do not receive the punishment they so richly deserve.

What, I think, everyone would like to know is how far coaches and managers encourage cheating and especially rough play - a great deal I suspect. Perhaps they are the ones who should be suspended; then perhaps quality would be restored to this splendid game.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN STOKES,
Brooklands,
Keele Road,
Keele, Staffordshire.

ON THIS DAY

MARCH 18 1918

Germany and Russia agreed on an armistice on December 5 1917. The subsequent treaty of Brest-Litovsk signed on March 3 1918 imposed harsh conditions on Russia - conceding the independence of Finland, Germany's acquisition of Poland and the Baltic states, in addition to a large indemnity. The armistice of November 1918 declared the treaty null and void.

QUARRELS OVER PEACE TREATY

RATIFICATION AT MOSCOW

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT
PETROGRAD, MARCH 15.
The Soviet Congress of 923 delegates at Moscow yesterday, after listening to Lenin for two hours, ratified the peace treaty by a majority of 453. The meeting was packed with Bolsheviks.

MOSCOW, March 16. - The following resolution, proposed by the Bolshevik Party, was adopted today by the Congress of Soviets.

"The fourth Extraordinary Congress of Soviets sanctions the Treaty of Peace concluded by our representatives at Brest-Litovsk on March 3, 1918, and approves of the actions of the Central Committee and of the Council of the People's Commissaries who decided to sign a painful, forced, and dishonouring peace."

"The Congress also approves of the acts of the peace delegation, who refused to discuss the details of the German conditions of peace, in these conditions are forced upon us by an ultimatum and violence."

"The Congress recognises as their duty that all the working masses should employ all their strength to establish the defence of our country upon the basis of both peace, and that all persons of both sexes, young and old, should receive military training."

"The Russian Federal Socialist Republic, while condemning a war of pillage, recognises its right and duty to defend the Socialist community against possible aggressions by Imperialist countries."

"The Congress expresses its deep conviction that the Government of the Soviets should do everything possible to assist the national Socialist movement and the workers of all countries in their struggle against capitalism and imperialism in order to create a Socialist community and to establish between the peoples a lasting peace."

"The Congress is deeply convinced that the workers' revolution is near, and that the victory of the Russian Revolution is secured, in spite of the savage measures due to Imperialist intervention."

M. Levin delivered a speech showing the necessity of signing peace for Russia. He afterwards analysed the events of the Russian Revolution which, he said, in a year were brilliant victories, but which now must suffer defeat by German imperialism which, for the time being, was too strong for it. "But history teaches us," M. Levin continued, "that after the dishonourable peace of Brest-Litovsk, Germany rose again. We should accept this peace as a temporary respite, and await the moment when the European proletariat will come to our assistance."

PETROGRAD, March 16. - M. Steinberg, the Commissioner of Justice, announced that the Left Revolutionary Socialists would refuse responsibility for the ratification, and would reserve the right to hinder the fulfilment of the terms of the treaty by all means in their power.

VAT on books

From Lord Macmillan of Ovenden

Sir, Your Economics Correspondent suggests (March 12) that the Chancellor may "exempt" instead of "zero-rate" certain books and services, such as books, for VAT. He implies that this would be a soft option, avoiding the onus of applying taxes directly on products of particular value to the community.

Exemption merely means that "traders" - authors, printers, publishers, booksellers, in our case - do not have to charge VAT to their customers. They still pay tax on their inputs, and since they cannot reclaim through the tax system they can only recover their tax charges through higher prices.

For books this would amount to at least 8½ per cent higher prices and reduce demand, and the availability of books, at least *pro rata* - worse for "quality" short-run titles crucial to the British book business. Exports would also have to be priced higher, lacking relief for taxes paid by early parts of the production chain, including printers. In fact, the only gainers would be importers of print and books, who would not have to pay or charge VAT.

Exemption is a means of relief for small trading activities. It is not the same as no tax: it merely means that you cannot recover the taxes paid.

Yours faithfully,
MACMILLAN OF OVENDEN,
Chairman,
National Book Committee,
Book House, 45 East Hill, SW18,
March 13.

VSO mercy flight

From the Minister for Overseas Development

Sir, There is a misconception in Mr Kenneth Lambert's letter (March 14) about the repatriation from Sierra Leone of the VSO nurse, Jill Sanderson.

The RAF only sought to recover the identifiable additional costs incurred by this particular flight; these are far less than would be required by the imposition of the full cost rate. Moreover, Mr Lambert may not be aware that I agreed that the Overseas Development Administration should provide half the costs in question. The remainder will be found from within VSO's 1984/85 budget, which is itself 90 per cent financed by the Overseas Development Administration.

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY RAYSON,
Overseas Development Administration,
Eland House,
Slag Place, SW1,
March 15.

Brave face on it

From Mr Peter Hannigan

Sir, Surely those of us who are much the same age as Mr Gorbachov must not only share in the hopes aroused by his appointment, but bask in the constant references to his youth?

Yours faithfully,
PETER HANNIGAN, Headmaster,
Westminster Cathedral Choir School,
Ambrosden Avenue, SW1,
March 14.

THE ARTS

Sheridan Morley's biography of Noël Coward, *A Talent to Amuse*, out of print for a decade, is today republished with the following new prologue by the author

Half a century of entertainment personified

Like a first child, a first book is the one you worry about the most: others may turn out better or brighter in the end, but the first is the one whose conception and gestation and arrival you never forget. It is now getting on for twenty years since *A Talent to Amuse* first appeared in print, and although since then I've published more than a dozen other titles, this is the one that still matters most to me.

This biography was written over a three-year period from 1966, and it happily coincided with the last great change in Coward's professional and private fortunes: when I began writing, he was still widely regarded as an exiled refugee from some pre-war world of lost glamour. A couple of months after the book came out, at the time of his seventieth birthday, he was given (by the Labour government) the knighthood that established him as the great old man of the British theatre. The renaissance had come, and unlike most he had lived to see it himself.

Because I come from a family of actors, and because my son Hugo, who was born during the writing of this book, became the last of Noël's many godchildren, there has developed a curious but unchangeable theory that I too must have known Coward from childhood. In fact we first met in 1964 when I was twenty-three and working as a newscaster and scriptwriter for ITN. This being by definition an evening job, I used to spend some of my mornings writing arts-page profiles for *The Times* — a job I am happily still doing twenty years later.

The arts editor of *The Times* in those days was a marvellously avuncular figure called John Law-

rence, of whom it was always said that once, left in charge of the obituaries during a holiday period, he had run by mistake one for the then Duke of Norfolk who subsequently telephoned in understanding indignation to correct the error. "But, Your Grace," replied Lawrence, ever a careful man, "may I first of all establish precisely from where you are now telephoning?"

He was telephoning from where I was telephoning: the flat in Paddington, to ask if there was anybody in town he would like interviewed. One morning the news was that Noël Coward had come to London to start auditioning for a National Theatre revival of *Hay Fever* which he was himself to direct. "He's getting on a bit now," said Lawrence, "and hasn't had a success in a long time, but he's just the sort of chap for our readers and I think you might like him."

I had never met Coward before, and was almost totally unprepared for what I found. At that time, popular legend had it that he was more or less finished — a sixty-four-year-old writer of old-fashioned drawing room comedies, hopelessly out of touch artistically with the post-Orson Welles theatre, and equally out of touch socially with the country he had abandoned for financial reasons a decade earlier. I think I expected to meet a rather embittered old gentleman somewhere halfway from Somerset Maugham to the Duke of Windsor, living on his memories and surrounded by albums of photographs by Cecil Beaton.

What I actually found, in the opulent surroundings of the river suite at the Savoy, was a blithe and sprightly spirit leaping around in his shirtsleeves organizing not only the

Hay Fever casting, but also rehearsals for a musical called *High Spirits* which was to open in the same season and a forthcoming film appearance in an Otto Preminger thriller. Yet he remained courteous enough and relaxed enough to give an inexperienced and uneasy journalist an interview of such elegance, charm and wit that almost every one I have done since has inevitably seemed something of an anti-climax.

The result of the first meeting was, as I recall it, an appallingly patronising profile for *The Times* in which I suggested that the old master still had a spark or two of life in him, and remarked mildly that one or two of his plays perhaps deserved a better fate than to be held up as examples of everything that Kenneth Tynan and the Royal Court had been created to destroy. It was not, at the time, a distinctly popular view, but the more I began to think about and read Coward, the more convinced I became that the history of British entertainment in the first half of this century was essentially the history of his own career — from child actor through revues and musical comedies to patriotic epics like *Cavalcade*, to be seen again at Chichester this summer, and such classic comedies as *Private Lives* and *Blithe Spirit* — and that is before you even start to think about the cabaret songs or the movies like *Brief Encounter* or the poems or the novel or the short stories or the paintings, or the productions he staged.

I rapidly became obsessed with Coward, but it was a curiously unfashionable obsession for the mid-Sixties. Yet the tide was already on the turn: the decision by Olivier to make Coward the first living British dramatist to have a pro-

duction at the National might have been regarded by many as just the repayment of an old debt (since Olivier had been given one of his first great West End successes in *Private Lives*) but it undoubtedly started a slow process of canonisation.

By the time *Hay Fever* had opened, I had already started to think it was curious that there had only ever been one attempt at a Coward biography (a slim and wildly inaccurate volume published in 1933) and that his own autobiography gave no account at all of the years 1931-39 or 1945 to the present. So I sent a letter to him suggesting that it was about time somebody wrote his life, and that on balance he might do worse than me. In my innocence of publishing customs, I also suggested that as it was his life we were talking about, he would of course be entitled to a cut of the proceeds — if there were ever to be any — which at that time did not appear altogether inevitable.

Noël replied at once: yes, he agreed that it was about time for a biography, and my "curious" qualification me to write it. As, however, I had never written a book, he suggested that perhaps I would like to send him a couple of trial chapters about his childhood: if he approved of them, he would open up his files and give me his friends' telephone numbers.

I told him I was hoping to write a critical theatrical biography, rather than fan book or a cuttings job, and that I wanted to talk to his enemies as well as his friends. He seemed to approve of that, and made only one reservation: there was to be no mention in the book of his

homosexuality. His private life had, he said, always been just that: it had never been allowed to affect his work, and his reason for not wanting it made public in his lifetime was purely pragmatic. Noël was still living on his royalties, and in difficult times these tended to come from theatres.

His audience was not, he reckoned, exclusively made up of a post-war generation prepared to allow the artist absolute sexual freedom: his followers still included large numbers of old ladies and gentlemen who would have been deeply shocked by any homosexual revelations, and at a time when he still needed all the friends he could get, he saw no reason to alienate a whole section of his constituency. It needs to be recalled that the laws on homosexuality had not then been reformed.

Along the way I came to agree with Coward that his private life had indeed played remarkably little part in an existence almost wholly given over to work, but I still felt that there needed to be some reference to it somewhere. At last I thought I'd found a way of changing Coward's mind: in about 1966 the drama and television critic T. C. Worsley, a figure of impeccable Establishment credentials and some literary distinction, published a memoir entitled *Flamelled Fash* in which he revealed lifelong homosexuality. Empires did not totter, membership of the Gaiety Club was not withdrawn, and at last it seemed that the prejudice was fading. Armed with the book and its very favourable critical reaction in the serious press, I went to stay with Noël in Switzerland, and suggested that where Coward had been down the barricades, he too could slip through



Coward, nearing 70, at home in Switzerland

without too great a scandal. Noël disagreed: "There is," he said memorably, "one essential difference between me and Cuthbert Worsley. The British public at large would not care if Cuthbert Worsley had slept with mice."

And that was more or less that, though Noël was always the first to make it clear that his demand for sexual privacy only applied in his own lifetime, and that after he was dead I was at liberty to rewrite this entire book if I so choose. In fact, I haven't.

Were I starting this book again the only and brief section I would want to rewrite is where I deal with Coward's last full-length play *Love at First Sight*. There I believe, for the

first and only time, Noël did allow his private life to surface seriously in his work, though he always maintained that if the play was about anybody it was about either Max Beerholm or Somerset Maugham rather than himself. In its discussion of the public's intolerance of homosexuality it has always seemed to me a lot closer to home than any of the light comedies. As a play it was however not his best, and as autobiography it flew in the face of one of the many maxims which Coward made his own — never complain never explain.

© Sheridan Morley 1969, 1985
Taken from *A Talent to Amuse* by Sheridan Morley, published today by Penguin. Michael Joseph Ltd at £11.95

Opera

Fidelio
Coliseum

Beethoven's opera takes place not on stage but from it, and Joachim Heriz's ENO production assists the work's steady approach from the level of domestic entertainment through that of epic drama to the point where it makes its challenge direct. The only trouble is that the Coliseum stage is not so amenable, its width scatters attention, and the little artificial arbour to one side is not really enough to give the opening scenes a homely interior: the gun-crazy zigzag of the prison is not imposing at this point, so that the family business within the Rocco household seems trivial.

However, the importance of this part of the opera is reclaimed by the performances. Dennis Wick's Rocco and Alan Woodrow's Jaquino have been seen before, and return as fine achievements in character singing.

There is also a delightful Marzelline in Jane Leslie Mackenzie, appearing with the company for the first time. Her tone is youthfully pure, but secure as well as pretty, suggesting intelligence and level-headedness in this Marzelline: she also gets the words across. So too does Josephine Barstow as Leonore. Again the interpretation has been acclaimed before, and its urgency is undimmed, even if Miss Barstow tended to lose tone in the first act on Friday's opening night.

She was much sounder, and indeed thrilling, in the second act, where she seemed to overflow with confidence enough for Rowland Sidwell. His big aria had not been at all happy, but in partnership with Miss Barstow he was stirred to singing that came much nearer the bigness and bravura of his acting.

The chorus in both acts were in fine fettle: the orchestra less so. Mark Elder was conducting a performance of sweeping grandeur in the slow music and high vigour when the pace became quicker, but there were some sorry stuffs and failures of ensemble among the brass.

Malcolm Donnelly was a man of danger and strength as Pizarro, and Rodney Macann a Minister of appropriately transparent suavity, for, as this production implies, the real salvation depends not on some *deus ex machina* but on us.



Urgency undimmed: Josephine Barstow

Handel's oratorios may not be able to rouse in quite the same way, but *Judas Maccabaeus* certainly has more fire in its veins than was apparent on Tuesday night, when Charles Farncombe conducted a Handel Opera Society performance at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

The fault was not that of his soloists. The title role may be relatively unimportant, but Robin Leggate did it with sinew and a nice rhetorical force, as well as with a clear, agile technique that was useful too in the other tenor numbers. Henry Herford was always a pleasure to hear in the bass solos, and Heather Harper, whose voice must be entering its late summer, was in full possession of her most golden tone.

That was not always true of the chorus, who were more enthusiastic than imaginative in colour and phrasing, and among whom the tenors were notably weak. It was rather the reverse of the case with *Fidelio* at the Coliseum: the chorus was outshone by the orchestra, who, while making no pretence at period style, caught the alternating moods of pastoral, elegy and victory in the score.

The original billing had implied that we were going to hear the work in the form of its first performances, but, though many of the later insertions were removed, we were happily allowed to keep "See the conquering Hero comes". Here, and in many of the arias, the spirits were raised, but the choral singing and Mr Farncombe's evenly paced conducting made the occasion generally a sober one.

Paul Griffiths

Television

Against the image

TVE's programme on Edward Heath, shown on Channel 4 on Saturday, was a curious event, not least because of the title: *The Man Who Went to the Country*. It sounded cinematic and thus inappropriate. Going to the country is not a singular event for a politician and the result in this case was not perhaps something that Mr Heath, who has had happier moments and — as he reminded us that he was still young — may hope for more yet, would want to be remembered by above all else.

Then there was the recurring eagerness of the producer and interviewer Peter Williams to rebut any perception that his subject was a misogynist. It proved obtrusive from time to time. Mr Heath seemed not to notice, knowing that sooner or later, when his working-class origins, academic career, war record, sailing and Mr Williams's sallies into his private life were done with, they would get to the nub of it all: politics and the present Government in particular.

Unsurprisingly, he did not like many characteristics of that, its style not its policies. It could have done more through international agreements to improve the economic lot, he

thought. Summits had become "just tea-parties".

Was the Government uncaring? ask Mr Williams. "Let us say it appears to be uncaring," said Mr Heath. It would take more to win that battle than being told by Satchel and Santelli to go on saying "Of course, I care". He conceded that he might not have been the best communicator but spurned image-makers: "I don't really believe in images because image implies you are something other than yourself".

He regretted that he had had to learn of Mrs Thatcher's entrance into the leadership contest in the newspapers, disapproved of the way the campaign had been conducted behind the scenes on television and in the Press, and the champagne celebration after it. He was kind about prime ministers under whom he had served, less kind about Lord Wilson, his old opponent. They had got on all right, he said, but he thought Wilson opportunistic. Humour was not too apparent, though when Mr Heath referred to school dramas he confessed to being "better as an angel than a butler". "I came more naturally", he said, I am sure he was joking.

Dennis Hackett

RPO/Bychkov
Festival Hall

Two new faces for the Royal Philharmonic and, I suspect, for most members of Friday night's audience: the Leningrad-born American conductor Semyon Bychkov, who is fast working his way through the orchestras of Europe, and Yovka Ashkenazy, pianist son of Vladimir. Both are live wires: touch baton or keyboard and you might well be in for a shock.

In Bychkov, the electricity comes from overtones and joints. It is there in his insistence on the brightness of individual voices as the opening phrases of Rachmaninov's Second Symphony overlap and imitate each other. It is there in his emphasis on the angles as well as the curves of the finale's great tune, toughening its might. And it sparks from the verve which tautens the lyricism of the Scherzo's subsidiary theme, and the rhapsody of the Adagio.

Centours resist any hint of a bulge. Instead, poised of texture and a gracious gravitas are created by the most discreet judicious balance and cadence. Mr Bychkov thinks lucidly and elicits vivid responses: quite an

achievement, too, to make an orchestra just back from touring the US sound refreshed rather than jaded.

In Yovka Ashkenazy, the current is no less live, but the circuit is not yet so strong. The highly-strung nervousness of his Mozart Piano Concerto K467 had a lively effect on its first movement, tremulous with expectancy and unpredictability as it is. The march belonged to Cherubino: trim, tentative and pleased with itself at once. In the Andante and Finale, accents and tempi threatened to harden and sharpen somewhat erratically, so that the last movement in particular sounded rather more perfunctory than a pianist of such evident sensitivity had surely intended.

Hilary Finch

LBO/Urisari
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Aspects of the baroque concerto were on display in the London Bach Orchestra's programme on Friday night, the anniversary celebrations of Bach and Handel heard in conjunction with Corelli and Vivaldi. They were supervised as much as con-

ducted by the American-born Pierre-Alain Urisari, introduced here on a largely Italian-based reputation in music of this period, yet apparently content to discount the trends of present scholarship in baroque string playing.

For two works they were joined by the Belgian violinist Michael Guttman, whose Bach played from memory, had less bite than Vivaldi played from the score. The latter's "San Lorenzo" Concerto in F major (RV 286) was distinguished by the soloist's subtle figuration and long sustained lines.

His playing of Bach's E major Concerto, however, placed effective outlines without much of the inner spirit that should illuminate the notes, while the steady and impersonal orchestral support and rhythmic rigidity induced disrespectful thoughts of "sewing machine" Bach as it trundled dutifully along. The conducting was unobtrusive to the point of anonymity, as it had also been in the two-dimensional account of Corelli's "Christmas" Concerto at the start of the programme.

To some extent this lack of distinctive quality called in question the necessity, if not the desirability, for any indepen-

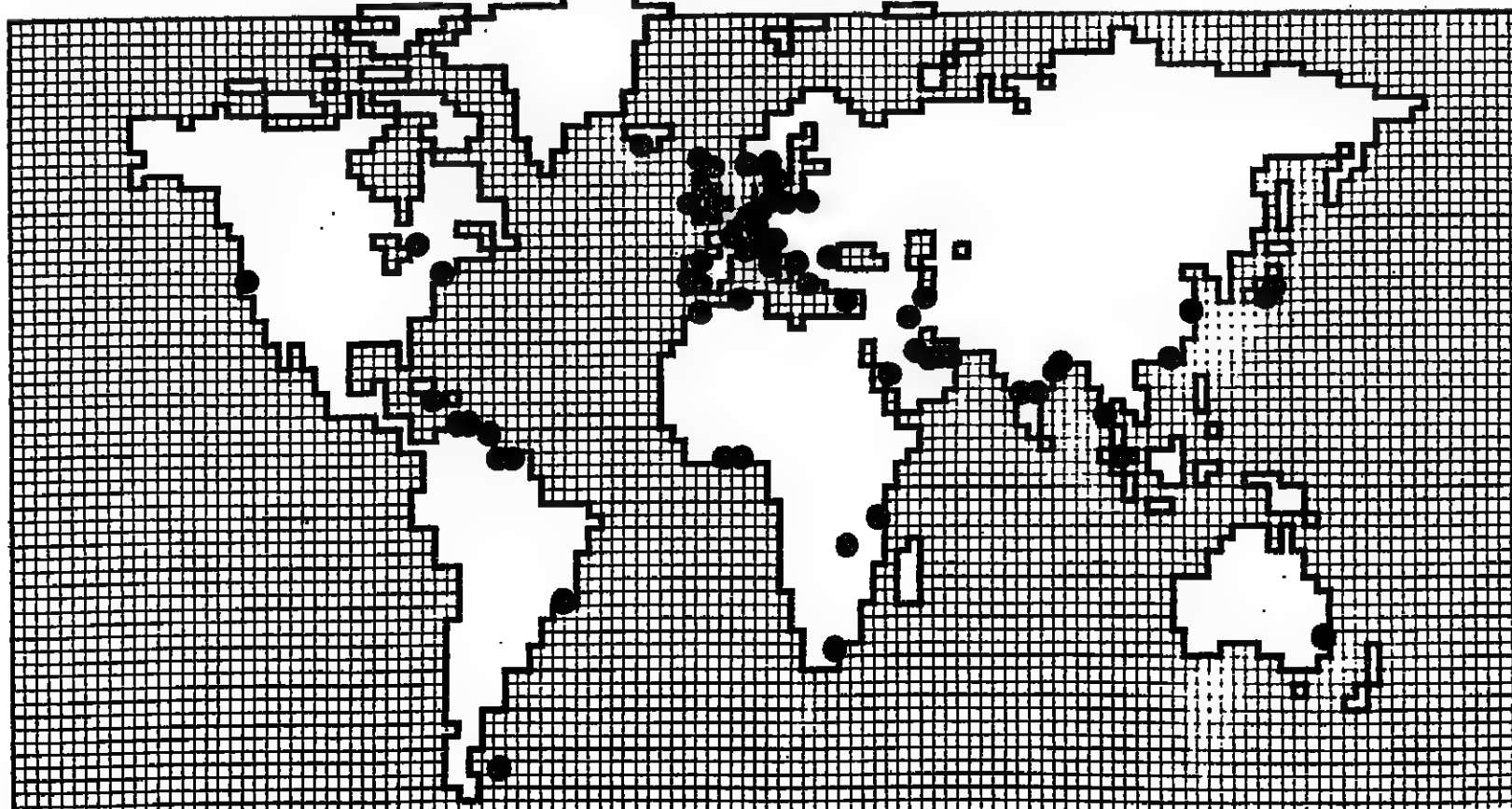
dent conductor given an ensemble of this orchestra's comfortably settled character and experience. Did Corelli yield to Bach and Handel with so little apparent change in stylistic expression? The gentle thoughtfulness the conductor brought to Handel's A minor Concerto (Grossi Op 6 No 4) almost suggested otherwise, and the charm and vitality with which Mozart was collected in the concluding *Une klem* *Nachmusik* should have sent the audience away purring happily.

Noel Goodwin

● The Hungarian film director Istvan Szabo has withdrawn from the production of *Le mizze di Figue* which was to have opened at the Wiener Kammeroper in May. This would have been Szabo's second staged opera, the first was *Lamhauer* at the Paris Opera earlier this season. All performances of *Figue* have now been cancelled, although there were extensive preparations including the auditioning of more than 100 young singers for the principal roles. Preparations for a new film in Hungary are given as the reason for Szabo's withdrawal.

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9.1	2,035,000	Lykes Bros	79	7.9	10.1
10.1	2,000,000	Maclean Pacific	82	8.2	9.7
11.1	3,547,000	Masoni	21	-1.5	4.5
12.1	2,000,000	Marine Harvest	81	8.1	8.1
13.1	796,000	Marine Harvest	79	7.9	8.1
14.1	2,000,000	Marine Harvest	81	8.1	8.1
15.1	8,891,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
16.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
17.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
18.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
19.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
20.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
21.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
22.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
23.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
24.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
25.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
26.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
27.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
28.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
29.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
30.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
31.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
32.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
33.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
34.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
35.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
36.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
37.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
38.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
39.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
40.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
41.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
42.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
43.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
44.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
45.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
46.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
47.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
48.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
49.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
50.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
51.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
52.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
53.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
54.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
55.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
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66.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
67.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
68.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
69.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
70.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
71.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
72.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
73.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
74.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
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76.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
77.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
78.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
79.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
80.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
81.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
82.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
83.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
84.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
85.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
86.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
87.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
88.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
89.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
90.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
91.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
92.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
93.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
94.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
95.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
96.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
97.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
98.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
99.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8
100.1	2,000,000	MSR	22	-4	3.8

U.S. POPULATION

PERCENT

YEAR

1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2020 2030 2040 2050

0 5 10 15 20

Base Lending Rates	Base Deposit Rates
12.00%	12.00%
11.00%	11.00%
10.00%	10.00%
9.00%	9.00%
8.00%	8.00%
7.00%	7.00%
6.00%	6.00%
5.00%	5.00%
4.00%	4.00%
3.00%	3.00%
2.00%	2.00%
1.00%	1.00%
0.00%	0.00%

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Has Houdini done enough thinking?

You all know the scene. Our famous contortionist binds himself in chains and allows himself to be tossed into a tank of water. The curtains are drawn tightly; suspense mounts.

Within the water tank (or Treasury, as it is quaintly known) the struggle is now over. We are promised a Budget less exciting than last year's; cautious in both finance and politics. Mr Nigel Lawson will have to produce some surprises, or we will all want to know why he was making such a fuss about secrecy. But it seems we are not to be treated to a demonstration of escapology: Mr Lawson will emerge proudly wrapped in his chains, clung to him like the insignia of office.

The first constraint is, of course, his own medium term strategy, precisely intended to stop chancellors or cabinets getting carried away with themselves. This has dimmed into unfashionable obscurity, because one segment of his audience believes it is not a framework for reducing unemployment, while another fears it is no longer directed towards the eradication of inflation. Mr Lawson is not a man to abandon it under contradictory pressures, but he has offered one binding reinforcement: monetary control is now to aim at the middle, not the upper limit, of his target ranges.

Here, however, is the central choice of this Budget. Either he could accept that this implied a reduction in his public borrowing targets; or that it implied a higher level of interest rates. It is at this point that the January sterling crisis becomes significant. For Mr Lawson is now committed to the view that the dollar is "too high" - which means that the pound-dollar exchange rate is too low.

It may be that within days of the Budget, Mr Lawson has just struck a patch of good luck. The worsening of the Iran-Iraq war helped the currency markets to swallow the abolition of the British National Oil Corporation without a shudder - an interesting suggestion that they are becoming less edgy about sterling. Then America's farmers sent a shiver through its financial system, taking a bit of the bounce out of the dollar. Thus Mr Lawson may be able to launch his Budget on to a downward curve in British interest rates.

But this is not at all the same thing as saying he should attempt to engineer a fall in interest rates by a pretentious and artificial cut in his public borrowing target. For Mr Lawson's new "attitude" (official euphemism for policy) towards the exchange rate does represent a clear change in strategy, and if he attempts to disguise it tomorrow he will succeed in rendering himself immobile.

Instead of attempting to lower interest rates as far as possible in order to stimulate private recovery, he has now subjugated them to the fortunes of the pound. These, of course, are not unconnected with Mr Lawson's financial credibility. But those auditors of government financial accounts, the markets, have been disturbed not by the scale of the Chancellor's targets but by his failure to meet them.

By dark warnings that his scope for tax cuts has been reduced, Mr Lawson is implicitly accepting their criticism of his original arithmetic. For while the length of the coal strike has certainly made things worse, it is simply not true that the recent troubles of the pound have automatically narrowed the gap for tax cuts. They may even have increased it.

The higher sterling yield from the North Sea may comfortably outweigh the extra burden of debt interest, while the fall in

general tax revenues caused by the depressive effect of higher interest rates on output is counter-balanced by higher exports. However much Mr Lawson pretends tomorrow that he is correcting for this year's sterling troubles, what he is really saying is that his previous calculations were too optimistic.

This is really why we cannot expect much more than £1 billion in tax "giveaways" - as reductions in the rising real burden of tax are curiously described. It would not be sensible for Mr Lawson to lose these away too, in the vain hope that a lower borrowing target would overwhelm all other influences on exchange rates and this bring down interest rates. For Mr Lawson has to pay attention to two other segments of his audience. First, those whose expectations he has raised of serious tax reform; and second, those to whom he has given hostage in his promise to make this a "Budget for jobs".

The genesis of this promise is itself significant. Last autumn, the Labour Party took its first shrewd economic initiative for years, hitching its wagon to concerns about Britain's "infrastructure", illustrated by the recurring theme of crumbling Mancunian sewers.

This has always been a weak spot in the Government's armour. First, because even the Treasury's own economic model embarrassingly suggests that public expenditure provides more jobs in the short-term than tax cuts. But, secondly, and perhaps more significantly, because the Government's failure to manage public spending is illustrated by the way in which current expenditure has been allowed to crowd out capital: while denationalization has been too slow to launch responsibility for public investment on to the private sector.

Such concerns undoubtedly attracted not only the professional opposition within the Tory Party, but a large contingent of Tory backbenchers uneasily aware that Mr Lawson had been proved over-optimistic on unemployment. Through the winter, however, Mrs Thatcher and Mr Lawson believe that - in the Tory Party at least - they have won the battle for tax cuts.

But Mr Lawson will not be able to wriggle out of his party's unemployment worries unless those tax cuts are cleverly and specifically directed towards the jobs market, and buttressed by employment measures. It is abundantly clear that across-the-board increases in personal tax allowances have singularly little impact on the demand for, and supply of, labour in the way the government hopes; indeed, their consequences may even be perverse, by encouraging more people to enter the labour market without getting anyone off the dole queue (the trend we have been experiencing for 18 months).

Thus Mr Lawson must engage in structural change of the tax system. Furthermore, that £1 billion or so, even if used on structural change rather than dissipated among all taxpayers, is inadequate capital for a "Budget for jobs". Thus, to pursue his chosen course, Mr Lawson must garner in new revenue. But many of his holes have been stopped by the prime minister, more by his own backbenchers. Even so, he must complete last year's unfinished business.

Then, he presented what was boldly described as a "Budget for a parliament", but with a strategic hole where his plans for personal taxation should be. He has had a year to fill this in; and shortage of cash is no excuse for lack of thought.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

ORDINARY SHARES

Lawson could be good for Sears

The apparent end of the House of Fraser saga, all seven years and several million words of it, will leave a tangible hole in the retail section of many portfolios. Retailing sub-divides into a spectrum ranging from super-markets to fashion boutiques, but the middle of the road is dominated by the solid but at times surprisingly fleet-footed presence of the high street multiples.

While it will come as a moment of sadness to some individual shareholders not to be able any longer to boast that they own a sliver of Harrods, the serried ranks of British

Home Stores, Debenhams, Marks and Spencer, Sears and Great Universal Stores beckon.

The leading retailers have been among the main beneficiaries of the economic recovery in recent years. The popular back-of-the-envelope calculation this year is that average pay increases of between 7 and 8 per cent will be eroded by price inflation of five per cent, leaving room for 2½ per cent real growth in consumer spending. Much depends on the fate of interest rates, but the assumption is that they will gently melt.

The fascinating question is, of course, how that money will be spent. Package holidays, beer and consumer durables have been languishing lately, while the tills have been ringing merrily for clothing and other consumables.

Tomorrow's Budget will naturally have an influence on these trends. An increase in the main 15 per cent rate of value-added tax would, of course, have a depressing effect on retailers for a while. The extent of that depression would depend on how much money the Chancellor puts back into people's pockets in the form of lower direct taxes.

Although the VAT changes may be subtler than a straightforward increase in the rate, it is a safe bet that income tax measures will be biased in favour of the lower-paid. That would suggest a stimulus for beer, betting, food and the less expensive items.

Such a mixture would nicely suit Sears Holdings, Selfridges, Lewis's, the Debenhams and the William Hill chain of betting shops. The stockbroking analysts expect Sears to produce profits of between £165 million and £170 million before tax for the year to January 31, a modest improvement on the previous £155.9 million and something of a pause for breath in the growth record.

That growth path, however, is expected to resume in earnest this year as what de Zoete and Bevan describes as the good trade record and quality of earnings shine through. De Zoete is going for £184 million for the current year, while James Capel predicts £187.5 million and W. Greenwell goes as far as £190 million. At 85½p the shares offer a prospective yield of 4.7 per cent and a p/e ratio of 11.7. The shares have been underperforming relative to the market for 18 months or so, and should be due for a rerating.

In terms of diversity and consistent performance, the nearest comparable retailer is Great Universal Stores, which spans such well-known names as Burberry, Times Furnishing, The Scotch House, Lennards and Cavendish Woodhouse. GUS is also the prime force in the UK mail order market, the revival of which was borne by the sparkling results from Grattan on Friday.

Credit is an important feature

Guarantee plan sought before Ohio savings banks reopen

From Bailey Morris, Washington

US state and Federal officials met again yesterday in an attempt to fashion an emergency programme which will allow them to reopen today 71 Ohio savings institutions hit by a run on deposits.

The deposit run triggered by the collapse of Home State Savings Bank of Cincinnati, has raised concerns about the vulnerability of the US financial system and presented Federal banking authorities with a difficult problem in the new era of deregulation. Foreign exchange markets will open this morning with the fear that the Federal Reserve Board may have to loosen at least one monetary policy.

Mr Richard Celeste, the Democratic Governor of Ohio, is seeking a federal rescue plan to restore public confidence, but is having difficulty. He was

forced to declare last week a three-day bank holiday to stop a massive run on deposits against the 71 state insured institutions which resulted in withdrawals of \$90m (£83m) from Home State Savings alone.

The governor's "bank holiday" was the most far-reaching action since President Roosevelt closed all US banks during the depression.

Mr Celeste, who said over the weekend he will not reopen the savings associations until a plan is in place, is attempting to provide them with federal deposit insurance which guarantees against losses of up to \$100,000 per depositor.

Officials are hoping to find a buyer for Home State and said that executives from Citicorp were looking over its books. The panic spread quickly to other institutions backed by the private Ohio Deposit Guaranty Fund which had assets of only \$130 million. Depositors lined up in caravans and camped out in deckchairs to withdraw their savings.

Officials said the fund would be exhausted by the failure of Home State, which incurred huge losses as a result of its dealings with ESM Government Securities Inc. which a court has closed, pending a federal investigation of huge unreported losses.

The deposit run and the bank holiday affected only the 71 state insured institutions which have total deposits of about \$4 billion. More than 240 federally

insured institutions were not affected.

Public confidence in the banking and investment industries has been shaken recently by the near collapse of Continental Illinois National Bank, the eighth largest, which was saved last year in an unprecedented \$4.5 billion government rescue plan.

There have also been numerous failures of savings associations over the past year and there are fears that the growing farm crisis could result in the demise of more than 300 small farm state banks this year.

Mr Paul Volcker, the Fed chairman, has said that, even if these banks go under, the financial system is strong and can handle the problem but the public expression of concern is growing.

Reforming budget for India

From Our Correspondent New Delhi

India's finance minister, Mr Vishwanath Prasad Singh, yesterday proposed a comprehensive growth-oriented package of fiscal reforms in the first budget under Mr Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister.

The 1985/86 budget, presented to Parliament, aims to provide greater encouragement for industrial growth while reducing the tax burden all round. But it leaves uncovered a record deficit of Rs 33.4 billion (£2.3 billion).

Mr Singh announced delicensing of industries, where additional capacities are housed from Rs 200 million to Rs 1 billion, per centage points and incentives for modernization.

The minister also announced that he would initiate a process of fiscal reform to be completed in a phased manner and envisaged a further reduction in the rate of taxation of companies by 5 per centage points followed by abolition of surcharge on income tax paid by them.

Meanwhile, he has raised the exemption limits for individual taxpayers and offered various concessions to salaried employees, industrial workers and insurance scheme.

Tax on interest earned by banks and the estate duty payable on the death of property owners have been abolished.

The effective rates of tax on individuals and companies have now been brought down to 50 per cent and 55 per cent. First reactions from business and industry termed the budget a "bold effort" with many welcome features, but some opposition members of Parliament dubbed it as "capitalist-oriented".

The president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Mr M. S. Pawarwardhan, described the budget as imaginative, bold and fulfilling the expectations of the corporate sector.

"It will promote growth in industry, improve savings and provide social security to the people," he said.

Stock prices across the country rose following the budget and the daily Financial Express share index closed at 197.05, a gain of 2.07.

● Saudi Arabia's cabinet has agreed on a budget for the financial year starting next week which calls for tighter public spending, according to the official Saudi press agency.

Coal Board areas to compete for sales

By David Young Energy Correspondent

The National Coal Board is to expand its marketing team to sell coal as the "fuel of the future" to large industrial plants where oil is now being used.

The team will operate from London and the coalfield will back-up the operations headed by the marketing director, Mr Malcolm Edwards. The marketing operations in the coalfields are expected to allow areas to compete with other areas for the large industrial contracts.

The management feels that coal now has a strong price advantage because of the high dollar affecting the competitiveness of imported coal.

In addition, the Budget is also expected to contain an indication that the present coal conversion grant scheme will be extended beyond this year.

Under the scheme, up to 25 per cent of the cost of converting oil or gas-fired plant to coal can be awarded by the Department of Energy. The coal board's ability to maintain supplies to its large industrial customers during the recent strike has convinced many coal



Ian MacGregor: a leading role in new drive

users of the long-term stability of supplies.

The first fruit of this new perception of coal has been seen in ICI's decision to revive the scheme to convert two of its five boilers at its own power station on Teesside back to coal, burning at a cost of £43 million.

The Board is also about to launch a campaign to win back a share of the home heating market but the main thrust of its new sales drive will be in the industrial area with Mr Ian MacGregor playing a leading role and using his extensive contacts within industry.

Unions back closure

From John Earle, Rome

Pirelli, which has made a steady recovery since breaking its union with Dunlop in 1981, has negotiated a five-year agreement to close its old (remaking) plant at Bicocca, Milan, and to open a small, technologically advanced one on the city outskirts in 1984.

There will be a cut in jobs there, from 2,500 to 600. A company spokesman said that, after allowing for the transfer of workers to other plants, natural wastage and early retirement schemes, between 400 and 600 would remain unemployed.

Industrie Pirelli, the group's manufacturing company, has indicated that it was back in profit in 1984, and that it will pay a dividend.

Bank 'may bring back MLR'

By David Smith Economics Correspondent

The Bank of England may be about to reintroduce minimum lending rate, according to the stockbroker Simon & Coates.

Mr Michael Jankowski, the broker's chief economist, says in a circular today that the reintroduction of MLR would solve the problem of "round-tripping" - switches between bill and bank finance - which have inflated the growth in the monetary aggregates recently.

According to Mr Jankowski, the opportunities for round-tripping have emerged because of the Bank of England's reluctance to adjust its money market intervention rates frequently enough.

This in turn due to the fact that changes in intervention rates are seen as providing the signal for the banks to change their base rates.

Posting a minimum lending rate would allow the Bank to state its view of what the general level of interest rates should be, while adjusting intervention rates on a day-to-day basis in line with market conditions.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

Friday's close and change on week

FT Ind Ord	1002.5 (+14.4)
FT-A All Share	630.16 (+10.9)
FT Govt Securities	80.26 (-0.04)
FT-SE 100	1309.8 (+21.3)
Bargains	28.420
Datasearch USM	112.38 (+1.21)
New York Dow Jones	1247.02 (-22.84)
Tokyo Nikkei Dow	12,488.03 (+12.05)
Hong Kong Hang Seng	1333.78 (-81.51)
Manatani	207.8 (+1.9)
Frankfurt Commerzbank	1214.0 (+10.8)

CURRENCIES

Friday's close and change on week	
£/\$	1.0835 (+0.0142)
DM/\$	3.6560 (+0.0278)
Sfr/\$	3.1105 (+0.0235)
FFr/\$	11.1650 (+0.09)
Yen	282.05 (+2.65)
Index	72.0 (+0.9)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	14%
3-month interbank	13½-13%

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interim: Chambers & Fergus and Prestwich Holdings. Final: Cambridge Electronics Industries, Isle of Man Enterprises, KCA Drilling, Metatrax, Wm Morris Fine Arts, Petrol, Petrocon, Pittard, Sale Tiney, Systems Designers International. TOMORROW - Interim: Barrett Developments, Paterson Zoehns, Star Computer. Final: Automotive Products, BL Boddington Breweries, Horizon Travel, Laing Properties, McLaughlin & Harvey, New England Properties, Nineteen Twenty-Eight Investment Trust, Robinson Bros. (Rydars Green), Warmougs Holdings.

Roads team for China

A team of nine British specialists is to advise the Chinese Government on China's transport problems.

The team, led by Mr Jim Hannigan, deputy secretary for roads and local transport at the Department of Transport, is to spend two weeks in Peking, Shanghai and Canton.

It will discuss the development of motorways, control of inner-city traffic and underground railways.

The British have been invited after a Chinese urban traffic study group examined UK traffic systems last autumn.

China wants to ease border restrictions between its special economic zone of Shenzhen and Hong Kong well before the British colony reverts to Chinese control in 1997. Li Chuanfang, deputy mayor of Shenzhen said, it will probably issue a special currency.

British Land's Dublin sale

British Land has sold its interest in the 28,500 sq ft office development at St Stephen's Green, Dublin, jointly developed with Dublin-based Power Securities, to Standard Life Assurance Company for more than £2 million. British Land and Power Securities are now concentrating on developing their other site at St Stephen's Green, with a £20 million, 400,000 sq ft retail and office scheme.

Trade warning

A group of 25 Latin American nations has warned that recent US trade legislation could start a trade war and reinforce protectionism. The charge came at the same time that the US Commerce Department released preliminary findings that Venezuela, Austria and Sweden were subsidizing exports of some carbon steel products to the United States. If the findings are confirmed, the US will impose special countervailing duties.

Plessey booms

Two new orders for Plessey Marine bring the total orders announced by the sonar systems group in the past two weeks to £200 million. The latest orders are £70 million of mine hunting sonar systems for the Royal Navy and £4 million for torpedoes launchers for American-built vessels.

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ABN Bank	14%
Adam & Company	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	12½%
Citibank Savings	14%
Consolidated Credit	14%
Continental Trust	14%
C. Hoare & Co	14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams & Glyn's	14%
Citibank NA	14%

* Mortgage Base Rate.
7 day deposits on sums of under £2,000, 11% £2,000 up to £10,000, 12% £10,000 up to £50,000, 13½% £50,000 and over, 14½%.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Assets stand at over £8 billion.

Changes in legislation, actual or anticipated, also have an effect. When the new arrangements for giving mortgage interest relief at source (MIRAS) were announced two years ago the switch to endowment assurances to cover existing mortgages caused a flood of business. This has since abated, both for new and existing mortgages, as the result of the withdrawal of life assurance premium relief in March 1984 but not before well-founded rumours concerning its abolition had caused a flurry of new business as people tried to beat the Budget. Since then fears

In respect of our UK life assurance and annuity funds less than a fifth of the year's cash flow was invested in fixed interest securities, the remainder being used to purchase equities (both in the UK and overseas), property and some index-linked securities.

Many policyholders will have seen the announcement at the end of January of our purchase from Barclays Bank of just over a third of the issued capital of the Bank of Scotland for £155m. It has been clear to us for some time that a strategic stake in the banking industry would help us in tomorrow's markets

This review has referred in part to the difficulties which have to be surmounted in achieving the impressive growth of business which the Company has once again recorded in 1984.

That success is not easily won and I gladly acknowledge on behalf of all our policyholders the contribution of our staff in every area of the Company's activity.



Head Office: 3 George Street, Edinburgh

BOXING: MIDLANDER MOVES NEARER TO CHAMPIONSHIP AFTER VICTORY OVER SPANIARD

Cowdell is likely to beat McGuigan to title punch

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

British boxing followers may be denied the only "natural fight" left in this country, a contest between Pat Cowdell, of England, and Barry McGuigan, of Ireland, but Cowdell's brilliant performance in retaining his European junior-lightweight title against Carlos Hernandez of Spain, on Saturday at Birmingham will lead to many a set-to in the pub.

It would be a brave man who could put his hand on his heart and his money where his mouth is and shout out the winner of that bout. For Cowdell's performance was the other side of the coin that we saw in Belfast three weeks ago when McGuigan outpointed Juan LaPorte. This was the boxer, that was the fighter. Where McGuigan is all forward motion, intent on wrecking havoc, Cowdell pecks away, picking up the points.

One side will say McGuigan would stop Cowdell and the other that Cowdell would box McGuigan's ears off. You might as well flip that coin to find the winner.

Cowdell could, however, beat McGuigan to the punch in landing the championship bout with Eusebio Pedroza, the WBA featherweight champion, first. Cowdell is to box a top-ranked featherweight in London on May 24, if he wins, box Pedroza in June or July - at Villa Park, according to a hopeful Frank Warren. "Depending on how that fight goes, Cowdell could go back to super featherweight and challenge Rocky Lockridge for his world title," Warren said.

After that Cowdell should gain the kind of recognition that has already been accorded to McGuigan. Even though he is

aged 31, Cowdell feels strong enough to take on the two champions. "I can slip and ride punches which means I've still got it," he said in the dressing room. "I could have gone on for 15 rounds tonight. After the sixth I knew he was going to be there for the rest of the fight, so I decided to carry on picking up the points."

He did that so well against a tough challenger, whose main object was to knock Cowdell's block off, that it was surprising to see the final score was 119-114, which is 6-1 and five even 120-115 (5-0 seven even) and 119-115 (5-1 and six even). On my card it was 10 rounds to Cowdell, with two even.

Cowdell's boxing was impeccable. He felt his way through the bout, darting in and out with sharp thrusts, changing direction and neatly clipping the incoming fighter with left hooks, forcing Hernandez to commit himself with fearsome swings and piercing his guard with right and left straight punches. He never staying long enough within reach of those flailing short arms of the Spaniard. Cowdell picked his way through the contest with the subtlety of footwork. In the fourth round he landed 76 well-placed blows.

But the more the champion appeared the Spaniard, the more determined the challenger became to land his ferocious left hook. That in his turn, only succeeded in bringing out the better boxing from Cowdell. In the fourth round Cowdell stopped the bullish Hernandez in his tracks with a beautiful chopping right, but the half-hearted shock off the effects and came straight back and hurt

Cowdell. There was never a slack moment from Cowdell. Just like McGuigan had been against LaPorte, Cowdell was busy every second of the bout, ducking, slipping, landing, testing, and moving off. Never in all that time did the champion's legs show signs of tiring. It should be some fight when Cowdell meets the 32-year-old world champion, Eusebio Pedroza.

Bramble charge

Las Vegas (AP) - Livingston Bramble, the world Boxing Association lightweight champion, could face a heavy fine or a long suspension if he is found guilty of using an illegal stimulant before his last bout, a title defence against the former champion, Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini last month.

Las Vegas (New York Times Service) - One minute Larry Holmes is talking about not boxing any more, the next moment he says that, if he loses, "I'll fight the guys who pay me money." But if he were to box again, he could only tarnish his record: unbeaten in 47 bouts, with 34 knockouts and a world heavyweight champion for nearly seven years.

In disposing of David By, in the tenth round at the Riviera Hotel here on Friday, Holmes was never more professional, cautious at first, then ever more commanding. He was a boxer, and he should also be remembered for Friday night's bout. Only four months earlier, he had fought against the inexperienced James "Bonescrusher" Smith, who was a boxer, and he should also be remembered for Friday night's bout. Only four months earlier, he had fought against the inexperienced James "Bonescrusher" Smith, who was a boxer, and he should also be remembered for Friday night's bout.

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Bye, bye, By: Holmes (right) registers another win

Holmes fire is still burning

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But after that, Holmes was every round, notably the eighth. Earlier in the week, the champion had dismissed his rustiness last November, explaining that he had not boxed for a year. "I'll be all right this time," he said. He was the referee stopped the bout in the tenth round, saying he apparently did not want to try for Marcano's all-time record of 49 professional fights. "I'm not fighting because I want another feather in my cap. I'm fighting because I'm getting paid." And when asked how he wanted to win, he said: "I want to win by knockout. As one of the guys who saved his money."

Through the first four rounds, By was ahead on the scorecards of two judges, and was even on the other judge's card. Holmes's title was in jeopardy.

Veteran Kuiper's tactical plan defeats favourites

From John Wilcockson, San Remo

A lesson on tactics was handed out by Hennie Kuiper, the veteran Dutch rider, on Saturday when he won the 76th Milan to San Remo classic for the first time in a long career which includes both Olympic and world championship gold medals.

After a strong headwind, had condemned many breakaway attempts during the first three hours of the 294km race, Kuiper, aged 36, made a first attack on the Riviera coast road 12km from the finish. He was joined by a promising Italian rider, Salvatore Riccio, and then by Patrick Verschuif, of Belgium, and the brilliant young Dutch rider Teun Van Vliet, a team mate of Kuiper.

The Belgian dropped back approaching the final hill, which climbs in tight zig-zags to Poggio Village. And it looked as though Kuiper's chances, too, were over when he could not hold the pace set by his young team colleague on the steep gradient.

With a group of more than 100 riders only 30 seconds behind, it looked as though Kuiper would be caught. Less experienced ones would have given up, but Kuiper

made a tremendous descent into San Remo, caught the two fugitives two kilometres from the finish and immediately jumped away for one of his finest victories.

Van Vliet took second place from Riccio, with the pack only three seconds behind them. After sprinting to fourth place, the Belgian, complained that the other race favourite, Sean Kelly, had refused to work with him in chasing Kuiper. Kelly, who finished second on a hunched over wheel, said: "I wasn't on a good day. I haven't raced since winning Paris-Nice last weekend, and a week is a long time without competition. But I'll be back for the classics in April."

Delhi (AP) - Vijay Amritraj, the Indian Davis Cup captain is setting up a tennis academy in his home city of Madras to train young players with the aim of providing world-class players for future Indian Davis Cup teams.

ROWING

Oxford head on the river

Oxford University had a clean sweep in the Reading Head of the River race on Saturday, winning the men's and women's titles. It was a necessary command performance by the Oxford men, three weeks before the Boat Race on April 6. They had what the Oxford president, Lynton Richmond, described as "a good solid row" (Jim Raiton writes).

But Oxford, who are seeking their tenth successive Boat Race victory, never seem to be able to do enough. They are living in the shadow of last year's brilliant record-breaking crew, who in the end had two Olympic gold medal winners on

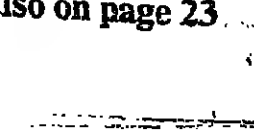
board. There is another shadow, too, in a swift looking Cambridge crew.

Rowing as it is in Saturday's single-file race, Oxford beat their immediate pursuers Leander by 17sec.

RESULTS: 1. Isis, 13min 55sec; 2. London University, 14:12; 3. Leander, 14:32; 4. Molesey, 14:50; 5. Thames and London University, 15:07; 7. equal 8th and 9th Leander 15:41; 9. Leander 15:52; 10. Henley, 16:02; 11. Henley, 16:09; 12. Henley, 16:16; 13. Henley, 16:23.

PENALTY WINNERS Head of the River: Lady Senior 1st, Senior 2nd, Senior 3rd, Senior 4th, Senior 5th, Senior 6th, Senior 7th, Senior 8th, Senior 9th, Senior 10th, Senior 11th, Senior 12th, Senior 13th, Senior 14th, Senior 15th, Senior 16th, Senior 17th, Senior 18th, Senior 19th, Senior 20th, Senior 21st, Senior 22nd, Senior 23rd, Senior 24th, Senior 25th, Senior 26th, Senior 27th, Senior 28th, Senior 29th, Senior 30th, Senior 31st, Senior 32nd, Senior 33rd, Senior 34th, Senior 35th, Senior 36th, Senior 37th, Senior 38th, Senior 39th, Senior 40th, Senior 41st, Senior 42nd, Senior 43rd, Senior 44th, Senior 45th, Senior 46th, Senior 47th, Senior 48th, Senior 49th, Senior 50th, Senior 51st, Senior 52nd, Senior 53rd, Senior 54th, Senior 55th, Senior 56th, Senior 57th, Senior 58th, Senior 59th, Senior 60th, Senior 61st, Senior 62nd, Senior 63rd, Senior 64th, Senior 65th, Senior 66th, Senior 67th, Senior 68th, Senior 69th, Senior 70th, Senior 71st, Senior 72nd, Senior 73rd, Senior 74th, Senior 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Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

- 6.00 Ceefax AM. News headlines, weather, traffic and sports.
- 6.50 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Nick Ross. Weather at 6.55, 7.25, 8.25, 8.55 and 9.15; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.57, 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27; news with Debbie Rick at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 7.20, 7.45 and 8.20; pop music news at 7.32; Lynn Faulds Wood's consumer and travel at 8.15; a review of the morning papers at 8.37. Plus, a preview of the week's television programmes and healthy eating advice. The guest is Susan Hampshire.
- 9.20 Ceefax. 10.30 Play School, presented by Carol Leach and Brian Jameson (r) 10.50 Ceefax.
- 12.30 News After Noon with Michael Cole and Frances Coverdale. The weather prospects come from Bill Giles. 12.57 Regional News (London and SE); financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles.
- 1.00 Pebble Mill at One presents the United Kingdom Student Fashion Awards. Jeff Banks and Paul Coss report from the Wembley Conference Centre on the competition's latest annual prizegiving. 1.45 Postman Pat. A See-Saw programme for the very young.
- 2.00 News. Part three and sociologist Paul Willis and psychologist Paul Brown examine the links between masculinity and work (r). 2.25 Streetwise. The fourth part of the eight-part programme self-defence course (r).
- 2.35 Primal Lesson four of the German conversation course (r). 2.45 Songs of Praise from Downpatrick parish church (r) (Ceefax). 3.20 Ceefax. 3.48 Regional news (not London).
- 3.50 Play School presented by Susan Hampshire with guest Stuart Bradley. 4.10 SuperTed and the Goldmine (r). 4.15 Jackanory Rosemary Leach with part one of Uninvited Ghosts, by Penelope Leach. 4.30 Bananaman. Cartoon series (r). 4.35 Fonz and the Happy Days Gang.
- 4.55 Newsround with Paul McDowell. 5.05 Blue Peter includes the first posthumous appearance of Celine Dion, one of the largest of the dinosaurs (Ceefax).
- 5.35 Grange Hill. Episode nine and George and Holly receive a nasty shock at the dump (Ceefax).
- 6.00 News with Sue Lawley and Jeremy Paxman. Weather.
- 6.35 London Plus.
- 7.00 Wogan. The guests are Donald Sinden, Pamela Sue Martin, Bobby Thompson, Derek Clifton, winner of the Superstar talent competition, and Sai Solo with the London Gospel Choir.
- 7.40 Fame. Anthony Newley makes a guest appearance as has-been Shakespearean actor, Trevor Kane, who is invited by Dons to take part in the school's 50th Anniversary show.
- 8.30 Are You Being Served? Mr. Garon believes that the store could make money in the evening, after the shop is shut, and asks his staff to come up with ideas.
- 9.25 Panorama, presented by Fred Emery and Richard Lindley. An examination of the teachers' disputes in the shape of a film followed by a studio discussion.
- 10.05 Film: Breezy (1973) starring William Holden and Kay Lenz. Holden plays Frank Harmon, a divorced estate agent, with a cynical view of life. The harsh edges of his nature are smoothed by his unlikely relationship with a young hippy girl hitch-hiker he drives to Hollywood. Directed by Clint Eastwood.
- 11.50 Weather.

TV-am

- 6.15 Good Morning Britain presented by Alan Diamond and Nick Owen. News with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.15, 6.30, 6.45, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00 and 9.22; sport at 6.39 and 7.37; exercises at 6.59 and 8.20; Derek Jameson at 7.15; astrology at 8.15; Jimmy Greaves' television highlights at 8.33; financial advice at 8.40; the TV-am doctor with advice on giving up smoking at 9.03. The guest is Joe Brown.

ITV/LONDON

- 9.25 Thames news headlines. 9.30 For Schools: Russian version of the fairy tale, Thumbelina. 9.47 Learning to read with Basil Brush. 9.59 The potter's craft. 10.12 Science: laser scanners. 10.32 The Watched. A play by Christopher Priest. 10.45 Aspects of the Dutch countryside. 11.20 Maths: patterns. 11.38 Part four of Jean Anouilh's La Belle Vie.
- 12.00 Tickle on the Tum. Village stories for the young. 12.10 Let's Pretend to the tale of The Tween Sisters. 12.30 Baby and Co. Minam Stoppard discusses food and drink related problems.
- 1.00 News at One with Leonard Parkin. 1.20 Thames news from Peter Houston. 1.30 Film: A Circle of Children (1977) starring Jean Alexander and Rachel Roberts. A made-for-television drama about a sociologist who is moved by a visit to a school for mentally disturbed children that she decides to devote her life to helping them. But will she be accepted? Directed by Don Taylor.
- 3.25 Thames news headlines. 3.30 The Young Doctors.
- 4.00 Tickle on the Tum. A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 Baffin. A new animated series about a combusting bat. 4.20 He-Man and Masters of the Universe. 4.45 Dodge, Bonzo and the Rest. Part five of the drama series about a brother and sister in care.
- 5.15 Emerald Farm. Will Henry Wilks be able to sort out the farm's finances?
- 5.45 News. 6.00 Thames news. 6.25 Help! Vi Taylor Gee, with two days to go to No Smoking Day, has tips on how to give up the anti-social and health-harming habit.
- 6.35 Crossroads. David Hunter receives some important news from his wife, Barbara.
- 7.00 What's My Line? Eamonn Andrews' panel this week is Jill Cooper, George Gale, Ernie Wise, Jeffrey Archer and Claire Francis.
- 7.30 Coronation Street. Brian and Gail Tregear argue over who should look after baby Nicky. (Cracle).
- 8.00 Roll Over Beethoven. Comedy series about a millionaire, retired pop musician and his prim and proper piano teacher (Cracle).
- 8.30 World in Action: The Pensioners' Nation. Part two of the three-part programme. Investigation into the National Health Service reveals that the NHS is the best in the world - until you reach middle age. 9.00 Quiz. The investigative psychologist examines drug abuse among the beautiful people when a famous entertainer suffers a tragic accident.
- 10.00 News at Ten and weather.
- 10.30 The Royal Film Performance 1985. Peter Marshall and Judith Chalmers set the scene at the Odeon, Leicester Square, as the Queen Mother and other members of the Royal family arrive to attend a screening of David Lean's A Passage to India.
- 11.15 Comedy. Classic, presented by Steve Rider and Steve Davis.
- 12.25 Night Thoughts.



Kathy Langton: Career on (BBC 2, 8.10pm)

● CAREERING ON (BBC 2, 8.10pm), tonight's Horizon film, is another of those documentaries that pick up where previous ones left off weeks/months/years before. If nobody has yet christened this new trend LTV (long-term television), then let me. To the best examples of LTV we have already seen, among them the sequels to We are the Lambeth Boys and 7-Up, we must add Career on, a progress report on half-a-dozen students who, in an Horizon film six years ago, were invited to identify themselves at the "C" level stage of their scientific lives. We now learn, stuck to their guns and are well advanced along their chosen paths. The sixth, Kathy Langton, decided she had had enough of learning and, aged 23, alternates between delivering Kiss-O-grams, programming computers, and giving

driving lessons. She ruefully sees herself as the black sheep of the original flock of six, but she still rates herself as the ultimate opportunist. It is because she is patently free of any of her more academically successful pals, and because her studies with the outside world have qualified her to look beyond PhDs and the like, that she is the ideal choice to tackle her former classmates and find out not only how their careers are progressing, but what kind of shape their teenage idealism is in after six years. I have seen many professional reporters doing only half as well as Kathy Langton, and I would not be surprised if Horizon called on her services again if, and when, the LTV story resumes in another six years' time.

CHOICE

I was taken to task on BBC radio the other day for hailing THE WORDSMITHS AT GORSEMORE (Radio 4, 12.27pm) as the funniest half-hour to come the way of laughter-starved listeners for a very long time. I am unrepentant, still maintaining that there is more genuine talent for developing a comedy situation in any one minute of Sue Limb's take-off of the Lake District literary set than there is in the whole of such programmes as The Word Show and In One Ear that are as amusingly silly and crude beyond belief. The more I hear of such scripted banalities, the more I admire the impromptu wit and honest-to-goodness pleasantness of My Word and Just a Minute. Miss Limb's success ends tonight, I hope that, in the cause of saving radio comedy, she will soon take up her pen again. Peter Davalle

Radio 4

- On long wave. 1.00 VHF stereo. 5.55 Shipping. 6.10 Farming Week from Wales. 6.25 Prayer for the Day. 6.30. 7.30, 8.30 News. 6.45 Business news. 6.55, 7.55 Weather. 7.00, 8.00 News. 7.25, 8.25 Sport. 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.35 The Week on 4.43 John Ebdon with the BBC Sound Archives. 8.57 Weather. Travel. 9.00 News. 9.05 Start the Week with Richard Evans. 9.15 The Archers. 9.20 Six Women. Views on different aspects of being a woman (4). Winifred Ewing - States of Independence. The character is Anna Brown. 9.45 Science Now. Presented by Peter Dinkley. 9.55 The Book of the Week. A Good Man in Africa. Stephen Davis's dramatization of William Boyd's novel. The story of a minor diplomat in Africa. With Alison Steadman, John Mahoney, Bill Paterson, David Carr, and Tricia Worsley. 9.45 Kaleidoscope. Includes comment on Dorothy J. Farnham's book. 10.00 The Book of the Week. A Good Man in Africa. 10.15 The Financial World Tonight. 10.30 Today in Parliament. 12.00-12.15 News. Weather. 12.30 Shipping. VHF (available in England and Wales only). Radio 4 will be as above, except: 5.55-6.00am Weather. Travel. 11.00-12.00 For Schools. 11.00-12.00 Music Makers (r). 12.00-12.15 News. 12.15-12.30 The World Tonight, and 11.00 Headlines. 11.10 The Financial World Tonight. 11.30 Today in Parliament. 12.00-12.15 News. Weather. 12.30 Shipping. VHF (available in England and Wales only). Radio 4 will be as above, except: 5.55-6.00am Weather. Travel. 11.00-12.00 For Schools. 11.00-12.00 Music Makers (r). 12.00-12.15 News. 12.15-12.30 The World Tonight, and 11.00 Headlines. 11.10 The Financial World Tonight. 11.30 Today in Parliament. 12.00-12.15 News. Weather. 12.30 Shipping. VHF (available in England and Wales only). Radio 4 will be as above, except: 5.55-6.00am Weather. 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Terrorists seize reporter in Beirut

Continued from page 1

Nor did he really believe he would be kidnapped. As AP's senior correspondent in the Middle East, he had no enemies in Beirut. But on Saturday morning his photographer colleague and friend, Mr. Don Mell, standing at gunpoint against a wall, saw him being dragged backwards in a bearing towards the Mercedes.

"He looked at me like he was waiting for me to say something," Mr. Mell said later. Mr. Anderson said something which Mr. Mell did not hear. Then he was bundled into the Mercedes.

Both men had been playing tennis. Mr. Anderson was still in his tennis clothes when he disappeared.

Fearless under shellfire, he has a habit of physically waving all problems aside, to the delight of most of his colleagues and the despair of those of them who have to pick up the pieces afterwards.

His colleagues in the AP telephoned everyone - the Lebanese Government, militia bosses, Shia Muslim religious leaders, relatives, colleagues and friends. They have done it all before. The Associated Press had four of its Lebanese employees kidnapped last year.

Mr. Anderson was dragged from his car by three gunmen while Mr. Mell watched helplessly, and was then pushed into the back of the pale green Mercedes 280, a vehicle with a grim little cabin obscuring the back window. The car was driven off towards the Shia Muslim Wadi Abu Jamil district.

Yesterday morning, with Mr. Mubashir Habbal, the AP's faithful driver, I set off for Baalbek. Through ruined towns like Bhamdoun, in which Mr. Anderson and I have together run for our lives under shellfire, we approached countless gunmen for their help. They were unfailingly polite and sympathetic. So were the Syrians.

In Baalbek, Colonel Muhammad Asmi, of the Syrian security police, said he had already been ordered by the Damascus Government to find Mr. Anderson. Syrian special forces paratroopers near Syria's front line with the Israelis all accepted the photographs, promising to find our friend.

Pull-out accelerated, page 5

Defeat and defiance, two faces of Iran



Russian threat to West unity

Continued from page 1

permitted under the 1972 Anti Ballistic Missile treaty, deployment would be a matter for negotiation under the terms of the treaty.

Soviet officials have indicated that there would have to be progress at Geneva before a summit meeting could take place.

The Soviet Press said at the weekend that American actions, including appropriations for the MX missile programme as well as stubbornness over the SDI were creating "insurmountable obstacles to agreement" at Geneva.

In his first speech as leader Mr. Gorbachev said he was anxious for agreement at Geneva, and the world would sigh with relief if it were achieved.

Washington maintains that the Russians are carrying out their own Star Wars research, but in talks with Mr. Neil Kinnock in Moscow last week Mr. Vadim Zagladin, a senior Soviet official, denied this.

Pravda yesterday echoed Mr. Gorbachev's pledge last week to match "good will with goodwill, trust with trust," but accused Washington of giving Star Wars a propaganda gloss to make it appear "harmless and attractive."



Shah not anti-closed shop

Mr. Eddie Shah said yesterday that if staff on his planned new national newspaper want a closed shop, they could have it.

In 1983 Mr. Shah was involved in a bitter dispute with the National Graphical Association over a closed shop at his Messenger Group of Free Newspapers in Stockport.

But speaking on Channel 4's *Face the Press* yesterday he said his new colour tabloid national paper would not be non-union.

However, he added: "I would do a hard negotiation with the trade unions to go for a no-strike clause and things like that."

Iranian soldiers (top) captured in Al Hawiza battles await evacuation by their Iraqi captors to the rear lines.

In Tehran (bottom) the coffins of the 14 victims of Friday's bomb blast during mass prayers at Tehran University are held aloft during funeral ceremonies yesterday attended by thousands of the capital's inhabitants. Some chanted slogans, ("war, war till victory").

Tears of joy as a drummer feeds his grandchildren

In his column from a poor Ganges village in the shadow of the Himalayas, VICTOR ZORZA, the distinguished journalist, writes about the sorrows and joys of Indian village life. Here he tells how the villagers seized their land.

Hundreds of his comrades had been hunted down by the police and killed. Balwant Singh told me, but he would carry on. He had no objection to staying in the village, and would instruct the party's local representatives to stop hindering me.

He was a Naxalite but not, he insisted, a terrorist. Naxalites were revolutionaries "fighting to free the people from oppression." That was what the party workers were doing in the village. "They will have no secrets from you."

I had already witnessed one clash with the police which resulted in the arrest of half a dozen villagers. There had been others, when the police destroyed the villagers' crops. Now I learned about the earlier and most crucial fight.

The party's organiser in the village, Bhagwant, had forged the young men into a disciplined fighting unit, easily to be back from the landlord's fields which the party said he had stolen from them. When Bhagwant gave the call, every man, woman and child turned out for the "struggle rally."

Inflamed by his fiery oratory, goaded by reminders of the wrongs they had put up with for so long, the villagers were ready to act. He had worked them up to a pitch of excitement greater than at any previous rally - of which there had been many. "This is your land," he concluded. "Take it."

They ran into the landlord's fields and fanned out across the neighbouring wasteland, each man and woman knowing exactly what to do. Some built straw huts in the fields; they would guard their new property day and night. Others began cutting down bushes, levelling the wasteland, clearing it of stones, to prepare it for cultivation. Suddenly everybody was rich. They would have food to spare, perhaps even to sell, just as the party had promised.

No one interfered. Bhagwant held more rallies. The bravest hoisted red flags on their huts, the timid grew bold, and soon every thatch flaunted its symbol of defiance. People came from neighbouring villages to marvel, to hear Bhagwant's speeches - and to learn. The poor could prevail if they followed the party's teaching.

The village summoned landless relatives from the mountains, and Bhagwant promised them land. A hill drummer - still in rags when I met him later, but resplendent in military medals won under the British Raj 40 years before - built his own shack on the wasteland. If ever the lookouts whistled, he was to dash up to the top of the tallest hut and drum for all he was worth.

Bhagwant again gave the order. The villagers marched with sickles into the landlord's fields to cut his rice. The lookouts reported police jeeps on the jungle track leading into the village. The drummer beat his tattoo. The defence unit, trained by Bhagwant, put up barricades of trees and thorn bushes.

Bhagwant, at the head of his troops, explained to the police with the grievances, and concluded with the refrain he had taught the villagers to repeat whenever anybody challenged them. "We are only taking what is rightfully ours."

The small police detachment could not have coped with the large crowd. It retreated. The villagers cheered. In the heady days that followed the village raised the level of defiance by cutting the landlord's sugar cane. His own farm labourers - "wage slaves" imported from afar, Bhagwant said, with no land of their own, working for a pittance - rallied to the red flag. Bhagwant had promised them land.

The labourers could hardly believe it when, at the meeting held to celebrate the village's victory, they were each solemnly given a plot of land. The drummer was deeply moved when his turn came. He had never thought the day would come when he could call himself a landowner.

None of his forebears had ever possessed a piece of land. Drummers drummed, they didn't till the soil. With his own field, he would become a person of consequence. It was a dream come true. His children had often gone hungry. He cried with tears of joy. He was not ashamed of them, then, or when he described the occasion to me later.

The land was formally presented to the villagers by Balwant Singh, the North India leader of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party - not to be confused, he gravely elucidated when we met, with the other Indian communist parties which were puppets of Moscow and Peking. The Naxalites were the only inheritors of the Communist faith. His party had now gone over to legal forms of struggle, he explained to me, but was still known as Naxalite and was proud of the name.

The police still kept a close watch on it. There were police spies at the victory rally. "The exploiting classes never give up without a fight," Bhagwant told the villagers, "and the police are their lackeys."

"We'll be ready for them when they come," he said.

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THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother attends the Royal film performance of *1 Passage in India*, Oxford Theatre, Leicester Sq. 7.30.

New exhibitions

New for Old, an Exhibition of rag rugs by Ruth Plumstead Wakefield, Art Gallery, Westworth Terrace, Wakefield: Mon to Sat 10.30 to 12.30, 1.30 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5 (ends May 4).
Paintings - Landscapes and Townscapes: by David Reeve, Fowkes, Townner Art Gallery and

Local History Museum, High Street, Old Town, Eastbourne: until March 23: Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mon (till March 25) Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Apr 21).
A closer look at lettering: Usher Gallery, 14-16, Road, Lincoln: Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2.30 to 5 (ends Apr 14).

Hangings, by Theo Moorman, and Raku pottery by Anne James, Peter Dingley Gallery, 8 Chapel Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37: Mon to Sat 9.30 to 1.30 and 2.30 to 5.30, Thurs 9.30 to 1.30, closed Sun (ends April 13).

Exhibitions in progress

The Gael, the story of the first Scots: Museum and Art Gallery, West Memorial Gardens, Kirkcaldy: Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends March 30).

Fifty modern British drawings from the Whitworth Art Gallery: McAlpine Gallery, Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Tues to Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 4 and closed Mon (ends April 30).
Henri Matisse: sculpture and drawings: Leeds City Art Gallery, The Headrow, Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Wed 10 to 9, Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 5 (ends March 24).
The Face of Nature: landscape drawings from the permanent collection: National Gallery of Scotland, The Mound, Edinburgh: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 10 to 2 (ends April 28).

Art, Laughter and the Bright Eyes of Children - treasures from the Museum of Childhood: Canongate, Edinburgh, Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (ends March 31 1986).

Music

Time and Tune Concert with Carol Lindsay-Douglas (soprano), Queensway Hall, Dunstable, 10.30 and 1.30.

General

The Ghosts: Man: poetry reading with Tom Leonard, Morden Tower, Back, St Paul Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 8.

Roads

Scotland: M74 between junction 4 and 3 near Hamilton, Strathclyde: carriageway repairs. A94 (Kincardine-shire) N and S of Fordoun. Road construction diversions. A740 (Renfrewshire) road reconstruction W of M8 (junction 20 - Paisley) lane and carriageway closures.

The North: A66 At Thorpe Bank, Great Bridge, Co Durham: construction work with temporary lights. A1 between Learning Bar and Boroughbridge, 5 to Pkiffill Lane End, N Yorkshire: Roadworks. M621 between Gildersome and Beeston, 5 of Leeds, W Yorkshire: contraflow on northbound carriageway for resurfacing.

Wales and the West: M4 between junction 18 (A46) and 19 (M32), Bath and Bristol, Avon: lane closed both directions, part contraflow. A465 between Nailth and Llandarcy, W Glamorgan: southbound lane closures, contraflow on northbound. A483 Fabian Way, Swansea, W Glamorgan: lanes closed in both directions.

Midlands: M5 Hereford and Worcester junction 4 (A38 Bromsgrove) to junction 5 (Droitwich): Outside lanes of both carriageways closed. Delays both directions. M5 northbound between junction 6 (Worcester) and 5 (Droitwich), closures. M56 NW of Birmingham, between junction 10 and 11 (close to Hilton Park service area): Roadworks. Southbound service area closed. No access southbound at junction 11.

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for Premium Bonds prizes are £100,000; WK 163572 (winner lives in Dorset); £50,000; 16WP 714380 (London Borough of Barnet); £25,000; 1BR5 759306 (London Borough of Haringey).

Nature notes

In spite of the weather, rooks are at work on their nests, in their crowded tree-tops. The males bring the earth and sticks, and the females arrange them; there are frequent loud quarrels as they try to steal twigs from other nests. Long-tailed tits are building their domed nests in thick gorse or lawns, sometimes lining them with more than 2,000 small feathers. In the air, they look like flying spoons; when the pair roost in the nest, they fold their tails over their backs so that the tips come out at the entrance hole and give the birds a beak.

Guillemots and razorbills are beginning to inspect the cliff ledges where they will be breeding, but still spend most of their time out at sea. Puffins are gathering in great rafts close to the coast, but have not yet come ashore to take up their holes and rabbit-burrows.
On plane-trees, the seed-balls are cracking and falling; the wind sweeps the seeds into yellow cushions on the pavements. The first coltsfoot flowers are opening in dry roadsides, the first lesser celandines in damp ditches. Many primroses have yellow buds, and green dog's mercury is thick on the woodland floor.

DJM

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Motions on National Health Service (General Medical Services) (Amendment) Regulations. Motion on EEC farm prices for 1985-86.
Lords (2.30): Motion on extension of wheel clamp experiment. Debate on control of the disease AIDS.

Anniversaries

Births: Grover Cleveland, 22nd President of the USA 1858-89 and 24th 1893-97, Caldwell, New Jersey, 1837; Neville Chamberlain, Prime Minister 1937-40, Birmingham, 1869; Wilfred Owen, poet, Oswestry, 1893; Deaths: Robert Walpole, 1st Earl of Orford statesman, London, 1745; Lawrence Sterne, author of *Tristram Shandy*, London, 1768; Farouk I, King of Egypt 1937-52, Rome, 1965; Edward the Martyr, King of the English 975-78 was murdered at Corfe Castle, Dorset 978.

The pound

	Bank	Gold
Australia \$	1.50	1.52
Belgium F	72.30	71.80
Canada Cdn	1.25	1.26
Denmark Dkr	16.46	16.42
France F	6.55	6.56
Germany DM	1.88	1.88
Greece Dr	336.00	336.00
Hong Kong S	1.21	1.23
India Rupee	25.00	25.00
Italy Lira	2036.00	2036.00
Japan Yen	163.60	163.60
Netherlands Gld	4.23	4.23
Norway Kr	136.48	136.48
Sweden S	10.46	10.46
Switzerland Fr	2.05	2.05
USA \$	1.55	1.55
Yugoslavia Dnr	234.00	234.00

Real Price Index: 359.8.
London: The FT index closed down 2.8 at 367.8.
New York: The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 13.03 on Friday at 1247.02.

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Portfolio

published in The Times Portfolio list which will appear on the Stock Exchange Prices page.
In the column provided next to your share name the price change (+ or -) in pence, as published in that day's Times.

After listing the price changes of your eight shares for that day, add up all eight share changes to give you your overall total plus or minus (+ or -).
Check your overall total against The Times Portfolio dividend published on the Stock Exchange Prices page.

If your overall total matches The Times Portfolio dividend you have won outright or a share of the prize money stated for that day and must claim your prize as instructed below.

Portfolio - how to play
Monday-Saturday record your daily Portfolio total.
Add these together to determine your weekly Portfolio total.

How to claim
Telephone The Times Portfolio claims line 0254-53272 between 10.30 am and 3.30 pm, on the day your overall total matches The Times Portfolio Dividend. No claims can be accepted outside these hours.

You must have your card with you when you telephone.
If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call The Times Portfolio claims line between the stipulated times.

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stipulated hours.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.
Some Times Portfolio cards include minor misprints in the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are not invalidated.

The wording of Rules 2 and 3 has been expanded from earlier versions for clarification purposes. The Game board is not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

How to play - Daily Dividend
On each day your unique set of eight numbers will represent commercial and industrial shares

Weather forecast

A ridge of high pressure over England and Wales will move slowly E.

6 am to midnight

London, SE England, E Anglia: Sunny intervals with light drizzle. Wind N light, calm, max 6 (45F).
Central S, NW, Central N, NE, E England, E and W Midlands, Channel Islands: Dry, sunny periods. Wind variable light, rather cold, max 7 (45F).
SW England, S and N Wales: Becoming rather cloudy, a little rain or snow in places later, especially in the W. Wind SE light, rather cold, max 8 (46F).

Ile of Man, SW, NW Scotland, Argyll: Becoming rather cloudy, a little rain or snow in places later. Wind SE light or moderate becoming fresh. Rather cold, max 7 (45F).
Berwick, Dumfries, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Dry, sunny periods. Wind SE light, rather cold, max 7 (45F).

Ireland: Cloudy, rain or snow at times. Wind SE moderate becoming fresh. Rather cold, max 7 (45F).
Outlook for Tuesday and Wednesday: Little change. Overcast fog patches in central and eastern parts. Continuing rather cold with widespread night frosts.

SEA PASSAGES, Straits of Dover: Wind N to NE moderate or fresh. Fair. Visibility good. Sea moderate.
English Channel: Wind variable or northerly light. Fair. Visibility good. Sea smooth.

St George's Channel, Irish Sea, Wind S to SE moderate, increasing fresh or strong. Fair. Visibility good. Sea slight, becoming rough.

Sun rises: 6.10 am
Sun sets: 6.10 pm
Moon rises: 5.44 am
Moon sets: 2.40 pm
New moon: March 21.

Lighting-up time

London 6.40 pm to 5.26 am
Bristol 6.50 pm to 5.45 am
Manchester 6.48 pm to 5.44 am
Preston 7.02 pm to 5.58 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; s, sun.
Belfast: 5.2 F, 41.0 C
Birmingham: 5.1 F, 40.9 C
Blackpool: 5.1 F, 40.9 C
Bristol: 5.1 F, 40.9 C
Cardiff: 5.1 F, 40.9 C
Canterbury: 5.1 F, 40.9 C
Dumfries: 5.1 F, 40.9 C
Edinburgh: 5.1 F, 40.9 C
Exeter: 5.1 F, 40.9 C
Glasgow: 5.1 F, 40.9 C

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest temp: Newcastle, 10C (50F); lowest: Cardiff, 5C (41F).
Today: Highest temp: Newcastle, 10C (50F); lowest: Cardiff, 5C (41F).

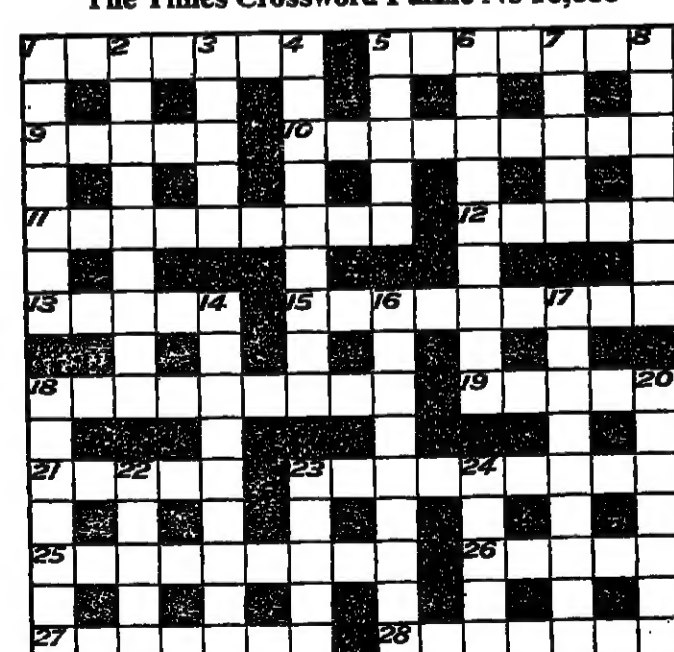
London

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 9C (48F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 1C (34F). Humidity: 6 pm, 57 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.04in. Sea: 24hr to 6 pm, 1.015m. Wind: max 6 am to 6 pm, 9C (48F).
Today: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 9C (48F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 1C (34F). Humidity: 6 pm, 57 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.04in. Sea: 24hr to 6 pm, 1.015m. Wind: max 6 am to 6 pm, 9C (48F).

Abroad

Algeria: 19.8 C, 67.8 F
Amsterdam: 11.4 C, 52.5 F
Athens: 16.1 C, 61.0 F
Bangkok: 28.7 C, 83.7 F
Barcelona: 12.8 C, 55.0 F
Beirut: 27.1 C, 80.8 F
Belgrade: 13.3 C, 56.0 F
Berlin: 13.3 C, 56.0 F
Birmingham: 5.1 C, 41.2 F
Buenos Aires: 22.3 C, 72.1 F
Cairo: 22.3 C, 72.1 F
Cardiff: 5.1 C, 41.2 F
Canterbury: 5.1 C, 41.2 F
Canberra: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Cape Town: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Cebu: 27.1 C, 80.8 F
Chicago: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Copenhagen: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Dallas: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Danzon: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Delhi: 27.1 C, 80.8 F
Denver: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Detroit: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Doha: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Dresden: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Dubai: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Edinburgh: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Eilat: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Freetown: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Geneva: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Havana: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Hong Kong: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Istanbul: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Jakarta: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Jerusalem: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Johannesburg: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Kabul: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Khartoum: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Kuala Lumpur: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Lagos: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Lima: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Lisbon: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
London: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Los Angeles: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Lyons: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Madrid: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Manila: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Mexico City: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Miami: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Moscow: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Mumbai: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
New Delhi: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
New York: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Oman: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Orlando: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Paris: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Perth: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Pretoria: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Rangoon: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Rome: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
San Francisco: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Singapore: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Stockholm: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Sydney: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Taipei: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Tampere: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Tientsin: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Toronto: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Ulaanbaatar: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Washington: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Wellington: 15.9 C, 60.6 F
Yokohama: 15.9 C, 60.6 F

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,688



- ACROSS
- Motor by the river for a spree (7).
 - Take steps to join the Lancers, perhaps (5).
 - Outline giving the game away (9).
 - Fresh snow as seen by the good King (5).
 - Disloyalty initially triumphant over what is right (7).
 - Two of these song boys were green (4-5).
 - One searched out and discharged (9).
 - It makes one draw a gun (9).
 - Colourful action by the sun warning shepherds (4-3).
 - Lot of hard money out East - nice to hear (7).
 - Half right to return poems (5).
 - Acted strangely as a recruit (5).
 - Misfits boundaries (5).
 - Left over right here (9).
 - Zest got us into trouble (5).
 - Barren - without son, of course (7).
 - Break up fragment of oldest royal castle (7).

The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 16,687 will appear next Saturday

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